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Moscow expels Japanese 'spy'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Friday accused a visiting Japanese businessman of espionage and expelled him, saying that he had photographed defence establishments. The Soviet news agency TASS said that Takashi Kuriyama had photographed defence and industrial enterprises, bridges, airfields, military equipment and "other facilities of interest to foreign special services" during trips to the Soviet Union. But the Japanese embassy in Moscow said that it had refused to accept a formal protest TASS said had been lodged by the Soviet Union. An embassy spokesman said Deputy Chief of Mission Minoru Tamba, summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry to receive the protest, had rebuffed a Soviet suggestion that Mr. Kuriyama was a spy acting on orders from the Japanese government.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Paris jails 5 Iranian hijackers

PARIS (R) — Five Iranians who hijacked an Iran Air Boeing 747 to France last year were each sentenced Friday to three years in prison, 18 months suspended, after a three-day trial in which leading opponents of the Iranian government testified. The men, four of them aged 20 and the fifth 18, admitted they had forced the pilot of an Iranian domestic flight to take them to France last July. But they said they were not guilty of air piracy because the passengers had agreed to go with them. The hijackers said they were sympathisers of the Paris-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the leading Iranian opposition group. Former Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr and Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi testified on their behalf. Public Prosecutor Gerard Jean had asked for four-year jail terms, with two of the four years suspended. The men had faced maximum sentences of 10 years in prison.

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Israeli vehicle hits landmine

LAVIV (R) — An Israeli armored personnel carrier hit a mine in eastern Lebanon on Friday, the ceasefire lines with Syria but no one was wounded, Israeli military sources said. Soldiers carried out a search and found a second mine nearby. The incident occurred near the village of Amiq where Israeli positions were attacked twice this week by Syrian forces. Israeli soldiers were fired from Syrian-held territory.

S.S., Soviets near outline accord

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times reported Friday that the United States and the Soviet Union were close to agreement on a plan to modernise the Washington-Moscow "hotline" linking the two countries. The plan, which was updated following an agreement reached after the 1962 Cuban crisis, began this week. The new pact could be signed as early as Friday or next week.

K. expels last Libyan diplomats

LONDON (R) — Britain is expelling two Libyan diplomats allied to remain here after diplomatic relations were broken off on April 1, the Foreign Office said. A spokesman said the two diplomats — Abdul Kader Kiaralla and Ahmad Al Bualishi Al Madani — were being expelled for engaging in activities incompatible with their status. The two diplomats, who ran a Libyan interests office under the protection of the United Arab Emirates, were alleged to have been putting pressure on opponents of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Iranians seize Kuwaiti vessel

BAHRAIN (R) — Iranian naval forces intercepted a Kuwaiti ship in the Gulf and forced it into an Iranian port, diplomatic sources said Thursday. They said the 919-ton cargo vessel Ibn Khaldun was intercepted last Saturday as it entered the Gulf and taken to Bandar Abbas on the Iranian side. It and its crew were released the same day after the ship was interrogated. They said the Kuwaiti government demanded a strongly worded protest over the incident, which it described as a "violation of the freedom of navigation and a provocation," the sources said.

India-Pak relations seen 'improving'

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Information Minister H.K.L. Bhagat said Friday there had been a definite improvement of relations between India and Pakistan recently. "Therefore at this crucial time, when the trend is towards improvement of relations, all of us have to be cautious," Mr. Bhagat said in a news conference before leaving for home after a week-long official visit to Pakistan.

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Major PLO factions endorse Aden accord despite rejection Fateh, four-faction alliance ratify 'historic' agreement

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five Palestinian factions meeting in Algiers Friday ratified an organisational and political agreement between Fateh, the mainstream commando group, within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a left-wing Palestinian alliance.

The five factions, while announcing the agreement, reached at the South Yemen capital of Aden two weeks ago, described the accord as a "historic and unprecedented step" in the 20 years since the forming of the PLO. The ratification of the Algerian and South Yemeni-mediated agreement came against a background of rejection and condemnation by Syrian-backed Palestinian factions which insist on the removal of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from his functions. The "democratic alliance," which includes the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Lib-

eration of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Communist Party and the "Liberation Front," has apparently decided to ignore the rejectionist attitude of the Syrian-backed organisations and to consolidate their reconciliation with the Fateh Central Committee.

A statement issued by the "democratic alliance" in Damascus earlier this week expressed surprise at the rejection of the Aden agreement by the Syrian-backed groups and indirectly accused them of hampering the restoration of Palestinian unity. The alliance, however, indicated in its statement that it has not abandoned its attempts to talk the four Palestinian factions, which have also formed a so-called "national alliance," into accepting the accord.

The Aden accord, which was reached after five rounds of painstaking inter-Palestinian talks, emphasises the collective leadership of the PLO and curtails some of the powers enjoyed by Mr. Arafat and stresses more factional representation in the various PLO institutions.

Politically, the pact reiterates rejection of any peace formula which denies a role to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and emphasises that any solution should include the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

The pact offers a compromise solution to the major point of difference which was the direct cause of the rift between Fateh and the four-faction "democratic alliance."

The agreement stops short of a direct political condemnation of Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and his reconciliation with the Egyptian

government last December, but considers it a "violation" of PLO resolutions concerning relations with the Egyptian government.

The five factions agreed, however, to stop further contacts with the Egyptian "regime" and to refer the issue to the PNC to be evaluated and judged.

The accord also calls for a meeting of PLO leaders including chiefs of the PLO's eight factions in Algiers this month.

That meeting should set a date for convening the PNC, which last met in Algiers in February 1983. The accord stipulates that the PNC should be convened before Sept. 15.

Arafat loyalists, who hold a clear majority in the parliament, have been pressing for it to be convened soon while other factions have sought concessions from Fateh in exchange for their agreement to hold it.

The full text of the agreement between Fateh and the "democratic alliance" will be published on Monday's Jordan Times.

Two naval targets hit in Gulf attack, Iraq says

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its air force fighter planes Friday attacked and hit two "large naval targets" south of the Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island in the Gulf.

The Iraqis often use the term to refer to oil tankers.

An Iraqi military spokesman said on Baghdad Radio the two targets were "directly and effectively hit" south of Kharg, Iran's major oil export outlet.

The first was hit at 3 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) and the second at 3:40 p.m. (1104 GMT), he said, adding that all the Iraqi planes returned safely to their base.

"By these attacks, we reiterate our determination to continue our blockade of the Iranian Kharg Island and other Iranian ports, as well as hitting any naval target that approaches the prohibited war zone," the spokesman said.

Iraq has unilaterally declared an area of the northern Gulf, including Kharg and nearby Iranian ports, a war zone in an attempt to halt Iranian oil exports and thus strangle Iran's war effort.

The Iraqis have been using French-made Exocet missiles in their attacks on shipping. The most destructive Iraqi strike was on June 24, when Exocets rocked the Greek tanker Alexander the Great while berthed at Kharg.

Iraq has announced hitting scores of naval targets in the Gulf in recent months. Many of the Iraqi assertions were never independently confirmed but on many occasions, at least one vessel was found to have been hit.

Iraq has been retaliating by attacking Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti and other oil tankers in neutral waters.

The Iraqis last Wednesday said their warplanes set a large vessel ablaze near Kharg, 15 hours after Iranian jet fighters raided a British supertanker in waters south of the war zone.

No foreign shipowners confirmed any attack on their vessels but some shipping sources said they had heard unconfirmed reports that an Iranian offshore oil field had been attacked.

Neither the Lloyds of London shipping underwriters nor the Gulf-based marine salvage companies had immediate confirmation of the reported Iraqi raid on Friday.

Sources in Bahrain and Dubai, who watch every ripple in the troubled Gulf waters, said no distress signals were picked up from any vessel near Kharg since 1200 GMT.

Flooded deserts, marshlands await Iranians on Basra front

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BASRA — The Iraqis have flooded vast areas of desert and marshland in the southern sector of their eastern border region to block an expected Iranian offensive, a ranking Iraqi field commander said Friday.

"It is our natural right to defend ourselves against any attempted Iranian attack," said Brig. Gen. Ismail Ibrahim, deputy commander of the Mowad Division that forms part of the 100,000-strong Third Iraqi Army Corps deployed in the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre frontline with Iran.

"This is our land and we do with it whatever we want. The flooding is part of our defence tactics," Gen. Ibrahim told a group of reporters in his sand-bagged command bunker, 18 kilometres west of the internationally recognised borderline separating Iraq and Iran, whose territorial conflict is 45 months old.

He refused to disclose further details about the flooding. However, one foreign diplomat in Baghdad said the "new Iraqi artificial lake in the southern sector covers an area of 2,660 square kilometres."

The flooded area, according to the diplomat who requested anonymity, stretches from the southern Iraqi marsh village of Dair, 20 kilometres north of Basra, to the hamlet of Al Madar, 70 kilometres farther north. It has an average width of 38 kilometres and depth of between one and

three metres. Dair and Al Madar are, respectively, 40 and 20 kilometres west of the frontline with Iran.

"It is a military zone there now, even foreign companies carrying out development projects in the region were asked by the Iraqis to interrupt work and leave," he said. "It's a lake now."

Gen. Ibrahim, whose Mowad forces defend a five-kilometre frontline in the desert southeast of Basra, said the Iraqis have massed three divisions along the other side of the borderline and "they are continuing to mass more forces to launch a new offensive with the aim of occupying Basra," the southern Iraqi provincial capital about 500 kilometres from Baghdad.

The Iraqis have said they will mount a large offensive in the Basra region sometime in the next year. Western intelligence reports have indicated hundreds of thousands of Iranian and Iraqi troops massing on both sides of the border in anticipation of the attack.

"The Iraqis will pay a very expensive price if they try to attack the southern sector," Gen. Ibrahim threatened.

He said his forces "use only conventional weapons. I do not have any chemical weapons or lethal gases." The Iraqis charged last March that the Iraqis have used lethal chemical weapons, mainly mustard gas, to confront a major Iranian offensive. The Iraqis denied the charge.

Gen. Ibrahim said the Iraqis would not launch a preemptive strike before the predicted offensive

starts, saying, "with our guns and other conventional weapons we can shatter their concentrations. There is no need for any ground movement towards Iran to do that."

Gen. Ibrahim said several Iranian soldiers he described as children recently have defected and sought refuge with his forces. It has been widely reported that the Iraqis have drafted young teenage boys into the military for their engagement with Iraq, and the Iraqis say they have taken hundreds of young prisoners.

"Some of them swim across the 500-metre-wide Shatt Al Arab waterway and others infiltrate across the mine fields in the desert. Few of them get killed either by the mine fields or by Iranian fire," he said. "Iranian (Revolutionary) guardsmen open fire at them when they try to run away. We receive them and treat them well."

Gen. Ibrahim added that the Iraqis were "willing to receive any Iranian who chooses to flee the oppression of the Khomeini regime."

The reporters, driven in army buses across the 12-kilometre desert road from Basra to Gen. Ibrahim's command bunker, saw dozens of vehicle-mounted Soviet-made Katyusha rocket launchers deployed in the region, along with scores of Soviet-made T-54 tanks.

The southern Iran-Iraq frontline was relatively calm Friday except for an occasional exchange of artillery duels.

North Lebanon militias battle for supremacy

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Fighting raged across the northern Lebanese province of Koura Friday as two rival militias battled for control of the region for the third day.

Radio and press reports said fighting and shelling with guns, rockets and mortars had damaged every town and village in the province and killed and wounded dozens of people.

Radio stations and militia sources said battles resumed Friday after overnight clashes that followed the failure of hurried Syrian and Lebanese government peace efforts Thursday.

Beirut Radio said militiamen were battling for Amiyoun, the provincial capital, where the frontlines were 30 metres apart and the shelling could be heard in Tripoli, 15 kilometres away.

Many of the province's inhabitants had fled to Tripoli, it added.

Olive groves and vineyards were set on fire and homes in more than 20 villages destroyed, sometimes trapping their inhabitants, police reports said. The reports said there were scores of people believed buried under the rubble, but rescue teams were unable to reach the area because of the intensity of the fighting.

The battles in the predominantly Greek Orthodox district pitted the Marada (Giants) militia of former Maronite Catholic President Suleiman Franjeh against the Lebanese-Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) militia. The fighting began late Wednesday evening, police said, when Marada militiamen launched a surprise offensive under cover of a heavy artillery and rocket barrage

from their mountain-top strongholds of Zghorta and Ehden, through the pine woods and into the Koura district, where the SSNP fighters are entrenched in vineyards and groves, the police reported.

Press and radio reports said Marada forces, reportedly 1,500 strong and commanded by Mr. Franjeh's son Robert, swiftly attacked SSNP outposts throughout the province, which borders Mr. Franjeh's stronghold in Zghorta province to the north.

Shortly before a partly successful ceasefire Thursday night, Robert Franjeh said Marada intended to seize all SSNP strongholds in Koura. The militia said it had taken a 25 kilometre stretch of coastal road south of Tripoli.

But the SSNP said it was fighting back after the initial surprise and had repulsed more Marada attacks Friday. In one town it is broadcasting from a captured Marada TV station.

It said it was ignoring a Marada ultimatum to lay down its arms throughout the province by noon. Radio reports said the battles involved hand-to-hand fighting and a plastics factory and a mattress factory were among buildings destroyed by shellfire.

An International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) spokesman in Beirut said the agency knew of four dead and 39 wounded but believed casualties were far higher because delegates had been unable to enter the battle zones.

Other sources said at least 15 people had been killed and 75 wounded, though there were unconfirmed reports of dozens of militiamen being killed in fighting for

some Koura towns.

The fighting follows clashes between other rival militias in Tripoli last week and the sudden turmoil in the north has aroused concern for the efforts of the "national unity" government to establish peace throughout Lebanon.

Observers noted that the northern fighting erupted as soon as the government established peace in Beirut on July 4.

Syrian troops in overall control of north Lebanon have not taken sides or tried to stop the fighting, although Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Thursday sent General Mohammad Al Kholi to the area in a vain attempt to restore calm.

SSNP sources have accused Mr. Franjeh of trying to seize control of Koura to create his own canton and strengthen his military position before the Beirut government imposed a peace plan in the north.

They said mostly Christian right-wing Falangists, who have reservations about the government's plans for a settlement in Lebanon, were supplying Marada men with arms and ammunition. But a "Lebanese Forces" spokesman in Beirut denied the charge.

Mr. Franjeh opposes the Beirut government, saying it cannot bring Lebanon a lasting settlement while it includes "Israeli agents" — a reference to right-wing Christians in the cabinet.

Pro-Franjeh radio in Zghorta has blamed the fighting on the SSNP, saying they were "strangers" in Koura and were acting as Israeli agents by causing repeated provocations to disturb the peace between local religious communities.

Cheysson leaves Syria after talks

DAMASCUS (R) — French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson flew home Friday after a 24-hour visit during which he had talks with senior Syrian officials.

A Syrian spokesman said Mr. Cheysson had discussions with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam before his departure.

The French minister Thursday night discussed ways of reaching a permanent Middle East settlement and major international

issues and bilateral relations with Farouq Al Shara, the Syrian foreign minister.

The spokesman said Friday's talks with Mr. Khaddam covered similar ground.

Mr. Cheysson flew to Damascus Thursday from Israel to brief Syrian officials on President Francois Mitterrand's talks this week in Amman and Cairo.

He told reporters on arrival that Syria played a basic role in the

Middle East and "it is very essential that we consult with them."

In his Thursday statement, Mr. Cheysson refused to disclose Israel's stand on the convening of an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. He said he had met with government and opposition leaders in Israel. He said he was not going to disclose his talks "since this may be interpreted in their election campaign in late July."

Mondale names woman running mate

NORTH OAKS, Minnesota (R) — Walter Mondale, in the boldest move of a political career often marked by caution, has named a woman to be his vice-presidential running mate.

Mr. Mondale Thursday named 48-year-old New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro to be the Democratic vice-presidential candidate saying, "we made history... we are the future."

He and Ms. Ferraro, an Italian immigrant's daughter, were Friday touring his home town of Elmore, Minnesota, and were expected to head for Lake Tahoe, California, for strategy sessions before Monday's start of the Democratic national convention in San Francisco.

Mr. Mondale aides said that the selection of the first woman ever to run on a major party ticket could reap dramatic benefits for the Democrats, eager to unseat Republican President Ronald Reagan next November.

Polls on the subject have shown as many Americans oppose a woman running for vice-president



U.S. Democratic Party presidential nomination contender Walter Mondale with his newly-named running mate, Geraldine Ferraro (AP wirephoto)

as favour it.

Ms. Ferraro is not only the first woman to run for vice president, she is also the first Italian-American to do so — factors that might draw many ethnic and Roman Catholic voters away from the man they backed in 1980, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Mondale interviewed three women, two blacks, an Hispanic

and one white male for the post before phoning Ms. Ferraro Thursday night and saying, according to aides: "Will you be my running mate?"

Ms. Ferraro accepted the proposal with alacrity. Earlier in the day she had won the approval of her husband, real estate developer John Zaccaro, and their three children.

Security forces thwart Kashmir protests

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Heavily-armed Indian security forces fired in the air and dispersed two protest demonstrations Friday in Srinagar, capital of the tense state of Jammu and Kashmir bordering Pakistan.

Police sources told Reuters that two processions were dispersed and about six shots were fired. But no one was hurt in the city, one of India's most popular tourist resorts.

They said about 300 people were arrested Friday in the town of Jammu near the Pakistan border, bringing the total number of people detained in the state during the past two days to more than 500.

Security forces strictly enforced a curfew in Srinagar, as opposition leaders were told they could not head a protest march against the sacking of Chief Minister Farouq Abdullah.

M. Farooqi, secretary of the national council of the Communist Party of India, told Reuters he and four other opposition leaders had been ordered not to leave their hotels.

A curfew was clamped on the city at midnight Thursday night and would remain until the situation improved, a police spokesman said. He said 250 people were arrested in Srinagar Thursday.

All flights to the city have been

cancelled, he said.

There was no sign Friday of Mr. Abdullah, who earlier vowed to lead a protest march under any circumstances in a bid to force new elections in the sensitive state.

Mr. Abdullah left his home Thursday night and had not gone to his national conference party headquarters, party spokesman Tahir Multar said.

Police entered and searched the headquarters Friday, then put constables at every door, he added.

Maneka Gandhi, rebel daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, told Reuters she met Mr. Abdullah at his home Thursday to discuss the situation.

Kuwait reportedly ready to sign Soviet arms deal

MOSCOW (R) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has reached an agreement in Moscow to buy Soviet weapons to protect the Gulf state's oil fields, authoritative diplomatic sources said Friday.

They said the deal would be signed in Kuwait in the next few months.

The minister's trip to Moscow follows the United States' refusal last month to sell Kuwait shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

The sources said they did not know what weapons Kuwait was buying or the size of the deal. But Western military experts said it

would certainly include ground-to-air missiles.

Kuwait lies only a few kilometres from the front line in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and is concerned about possible air strikes on its oilfields by Iran, which has warned that it may punish states supporting Baghdad.

Several Kuwaiti oil tankers have already been hit in the Gulf in raids which Arab states

have blamed on Iran. Kuwait is the only Arab state in the Gulf to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and it has bought weapons from Moscow before.

In February, 1980, the Kuwaiti Defence Ministry said it had acquired sophisticated surface-to-surface missiles from the Soviet Union. The International Institute for Strategic Studies lists them as Frog 7s.

The Soviet Union has in past months abandoned its strict neutrality in the Gulf war, leaning more towards Iraq since relations with Tehran deteriorated.

Middle Eastern diplomatic sources said Moscow would see a deal

with Kuwait as helping to improve its standing in the Arab World, already enhanced by last week's re-establishment of full diplomatic links with Egypt.

None of Kuwait's partners in the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council has diplomatic relations with the Kremlin. Diplomatic sources say Moscow's long-term aim is for relations with Saudi Arabia, the richest and most powerful state in the council.

Sheikh Salem, who arrived on Monday for a 10-day visit, is currently out of Moscow touring Soviet military facilities with Defence Ministry officials. Kuwaiti embassy sources said.



South Korea Red Cross Society President Chang San Yu (centre) presents the South Korean Red Cross shield to the Jordanian Red Crescent Society

President, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qura (left). Also present during the ceremony is South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jai Sung Kim. (Petra photo)

Korean Red Cross Society president ends three-day visit to Jordan

AMMAN (JT) — South Korean Red Cross Society President Chang San Yu Friday left Amman after a three-day official visit to Jordan.

During his visit Mr. Yu discussed with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society Dr. Ahmad

Abu Qura means of consolidating relations between the two societies.

Mr. Yu and Mr. Yu also reviewed issues pertaining to the subjects to be raised during the Peace Conference which will be held in Sweden in September.

Mr. Yu invited Mr. Abu Qura to visit South Korea to look at the Korean experiment in the field of

humanitarian work.

Mr. Yu presented Mr. Abu Qura with the South Korean Red Cross shield in appreciation of his efforts for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Attending the meeting were the Korean Ambassador in Amman, Mr. Jai Sung Kim and officials from the society.

First pilgrims arrive in Jeddah today

JEDDAH (R) — The first pilgrims to arrive in Saudi Arabia for the 1984 hajj season are due in the Red Sea port of Jeddah Saturday aboard the pilgrim ship Akbar from India.

The group of 1,500 pilgrims, the first of up to 25,000 Indians expected to perform the pilgrimage this year, will be followed on Sunday by another group from Pakistan, the Saudi Gazette newspaper reported.

Officials said the first pilgrim flight into Jeddah Airport is expected next Friday.

Last year, more than 850,000 pilgrims came from abroad to pray

at the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, and at Mount Arafat.

The total number of pilgrims from within and outside Saudi Arabia in 1983 was just over two million, the Saudi government said.

The government, meanwhile, has warned pilgrims against marauding the atmosphere of devotion and worship in the holy places, the Arab News newspaper reported.

"People who do, will be penalised and returned to where they have come from," the newspaper quoted the warning as saying.

The Interior Ministry recalled

that in previous years some pilgrims arrived with pictures and leaflets of an ideological nature, which was incompatible with the meaning of the pilgrimage.

Although not mentioned by name, pilgrims from Iran have in the past been criticised by the Saudi authorities for their activities during the hajj.

The Saudi Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments has also issued a pamphlet in different languages telling pilgrims how to choose a guide who will arrange for lodgings, and warning people against exploiting pilgrims.

Lebanon asks U.S. to unfreeze aid allocation

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon Thursday asked the United States to resume economic aid suspended in February after battles between the army and opposition militias threw the country into chaos.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami Bartholomew and official Lebanese sources said he asked how far Washington would be ready to resume development assistance now that a measure of stability had returned to Lebanon.

Beirut Radio said the United States agreed to restart the programme by immediately unblocking about \$12 million in aid.

The sources, however, said only that Mr. Bartholomew had promised to forward Mr. Karami's request to Washington. A U.S.

embassy official declined to comment.

The United States originally allocated \$150 million in economic aid to Lebanon for fiscal 1984, of which \$25 to \$30 million was in use when the February fighting erupted.

Congress then diverted \$40 million to the Caribbean Island of Grenada because of what a U.S. embassy source described as the "extreme inactivity" of Lebanon's economy.

About \$32 million of the original allocation has now been pending, leaving \$78 million in the pipeline, the embassy source said.

Before February, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which administers the aid programme, was

involved in several major projects, including improvement of Lebanon's sewage, electricity and telephone systems.

But USAID's 10-man staff left after militias drove the Lebanese army out of west Beirut where the embassy and aid mission are based.

Last week the army replaced the militias in west Beirut, reuniting it with the east under a peace plan devised by Mr. Karami's "national unity" government.

Until February, Lebanon received substantial U.S. military aid but this was cut back after the fighting and there was no indication that Mr. Karami had discussed its revival Thursday.

Israelis impose curfew on Arab town

AMMAN (Petra) — The West Bank town of Turmus'ayya north of Ramallah on the road to Nablus was besieged Thursday evening by the Israeli occupation authorities who also imposed curfew in the town, the Israel Radio said.

It also added that two explosive charges were discovered Thursday morning near the Jewish settlement of Shiloh, which is built within the boundaries of Turmus'ayya, following which the Israeli occupation authorities arrested a number of Arab citizens.

Arab institute draws up new anti-illiteracy programme

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Baghdad-based Arab Institute for Combating Illiteracy and Adult Teaching has drawn up a K.D. 611 draft television programme for combating illiteracy in the Arab countries.

The programme which will be able to address 33 million Arabs, will contribute to reducing the costs of fighting illiteracy.

The programme includes 66 television episodes, the duration of each is 30 minutes.

These episodes are directed to the illiterate and to the ones already enrolled in the illiteracy fighting classes, in addition to those who have already graduated from such classes and whose ages are between 15 and 45.

Arab Trade Unions Federation prepares for next meeting

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Delegations representing Arab trade unions and professional associations Thursday discussed preparations for the meeting of the Central Council of International Federation for Arab Trade Unions.

The delegations were in Baghdad to attend meetings of the "International Conference on the Serious Effects of the Gulf War on International Security and Peace" which concluded its meetings here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, it has been decided to form two delegations. The first, which groups representatives of the trade unions in Kuwait and Tunisia will visit South Yemen, Syria, Libya and Lebanon, while the second group, which includes representatives of trade unions from Palestine and Somalia, will visit Morocco and Algeria.

Both delegations will discuss issues pertaining to the forthcoming meeting of the International Federation for Arab Trade Unions and fixing a date for the meeting, provided that it should not exceed one month.

Dutch ban work on Iranian planes

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch government has made clear to the national KLM airline that it cannot do maintenance work on Iranian aircraft that might have a military character.

There has been controversy during the past two weeks after claims by KLM workers that military work had been done under a 1982 contract between KLM and the Iran Air Company for maintenance work on 10 Boeing 747s.

Dutch Transport Minister Neelie Smith told parliament Wednesday night that an Iranian Boeing arrived at Schiphol last month for a major overhaul. Though it had civilian registration, most of the work involved equipping the plane for in-flight refuelling.

'Egypt's arms industry could rival Israel'

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Defence Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said Thursday Egypt's arms industry could rival that of other countries, including Israel, but for political factors preventing sales abroad.

Speaking to reporters at celebrations marking Air Defence Day, he said: "We are capable of competing with Israeli manufacture (of weapons) and that of

any other country while there is a market for our equipment, but we must take into consideration the market factors." He said these were mainly political.

Likud closes gap 10 days before election

KIRYAT ATA (R) — With 10 days to go before general elections in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Bloc has slightly reduced the Labour Party's commanding lead in the opinion polls.

Mr. Shamir told Reuters during a break in campaigning in the northern town of Kiryat Ata: "Things are going well. Israelis know that only our enemies favour the Labour Party."

Mr. Shamir's own standing is high. For the first time in his life, the shy 66-year-old leader of the right-wing Likud is top of a poll asking who would be Israel's best prime minister.

Mr. Shamir scored six points

more than his Labour rival, Shimon Peres, in the Maartv newspaper poll published Friday.

Of the two parties, Labour is still well in front but Likud has narrowed the gap. In a poll in Friday's Jerusalem Post, Likud received 29.5 per cent of the vote to Labour's 39.5. A month ago the same pollster found the spread to be 28 to 44.

Another poll in the Yediot Ahronot paper gave Likud 41 seats and Labour 50 in the 120-member parliament, compared with 38 and 53 just 10 days ago.

Hoarse but relaxed, Mr. Shamir told Reuters he missed his fiery predecessor Menachem Begin,

perhaps this country's most capable campaigner, who has retired hermit-like to his Jerusalem flat since resigning as prime minister in October last year.

Mr. Shamir invokes Mr. Begin frequently during speeches, reminding his listeners that they worked together in the anti-British Jewish underground which fought for the establishment of Israel in the 1940s.

Mr. Shamir said his government would not cede a metre of territory to Jordan or anyone else, in contrast to Labour's promise to negotiate new borders in exchange for peace with the Arabs.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children's Program
18:15 Documentary
18:30 Children's Program
18:45 Programme Review
19:00 Local Programme
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 Arabic Series
20:00 Arabic Play
20:15 News in Arabic
20:30 Play Continued
20:45 Feature Film
21:00 News in English
21:15 News in English
21:30 News in English
21:45 News in English
22:00 News in English
22:15 News in English

RADIO JORDAN

855 kHz AM & 99 MHz FM

& partly on 95.0 MHz SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 News Summary
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Bulletin
13:00 Music
13:30 Concert Hour
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Music
15:30 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favorites
17:30 Special Feature
18:00 Music
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Top Twenty
19:30 News
20:00 Date with a Star
20:30 Good Old Days
21:00 Just a Minute
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Country Music
22:30 Play of the Week
23:00 News Summary
23:30 Classical Concert
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 News 06:30 That's That 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:15 About Britain 07:30 World Today 07:45 Newsdesk 08:00 Album Time 08:15 World News 08:30 24 Hours News Summary 08:45 World News 08:55 World News 09:00 World News 09:15 World News 09:30 World News 09:45 World News 10:00 World News 10:15 World News 10:30 World News 10:45 World News 11:00 World News 11:15 World News 11:30 World News 11:45 World News 12:00 World News 12:15 World News 12:30 World News 12:45 World News 13:00 World News 13:15 World News 13:30 World News 13:45 World News 14:00 World News 14:15 World News 14:30 World News 14:45 World News 15:00 World News 15:15 World News 15:30 World News 15:45 World News 16:00 World News 16:15 World News 16:30 World News 16:45 World News 17:00 World News 17:15 World News 17:30 World News 17:45 World News 18:00 World News 18:15 World News 18:30 World News 18:45 World News 19:00 World News 19:15 World News 19:30 World News 19:45 World News 20:00 World News 20:15 World News 20:30 World News 20:45 World News 21:00 World News 21:15 World News 21:30 World News 21:45 World News 22:00 World News 22:15 World News 22:30 World News 22:45 World News 23:00 World News 23:15 World News 23:30 World News 23:45 World News 24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business reports; editorial; world and U.S. opinion roundup; documentary analysis; American viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:15 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:15 News 18:30 News 18:45 News 19:00 News 19:15 News 19:30 News 19:45 News 20:00 News 20:15 News 20:30 News 20:45 News 21:00 News 21:15 News 21:30 News 21:45 News 22:00 News 22:15 News 22:30 News 22:45 News 23:00 News 23:15 News 23:30 News 23:45 News 24:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Les Peintres Cimeaux" at the French Cultural Centre.
* Exhibition of Ceramics by Margaret Todor at Ali Art Gallery.
* Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Sane' at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6611267
American Centre - 44371
American Cultural Library - 41520
British Council - 36147-8
French Cultural Centre - 37009
Goethe Institute - 41992
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44223
Spanish Cultural Centre - 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777
Haya Arts Centre - 667181
Husseini Youth Club - 41793
Y.W.C.A. - 664251
Amman Municipal Library - 36111
University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ofa (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalists artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lebanon Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphus Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24390.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, 37450.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 667157.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 25541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Assiout Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Assiout International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

02:59 Fajr
04:39 (Sunrise) Shauran
11:41 Dhuhur
15:22 'Asr
18:44 Maghrib
20:22 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 081 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:50 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Baghdad (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Riyadh (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Gassra, Madrid (GF)
10:45 Singapore (RJ)
12:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

DEPARTURES

05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:50 Beirut (RJ)
06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Amman (RJ)
08:30 Athens (OA)
11:45 Tripoli (RJ)
11:45 Kuwait (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:05 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
13:30 Moscow (SU)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 Baghdad (RJ)
16:15 Jeddah (RJ)
16:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Amman (RJ)
21:50 Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Lanka Amalia
— Basrah
— Blue Bank
— Adabara
— Kaptain Naser
— Ruzhary
— Kairo
— Badre
— Hevis

Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell-buy rates in JLD

Belgian franc 66/ 66.4
Dutch guilder 118.7/ 119.4
Egyptian guinea 315/ 317
French franc 33.6/ 33.9
Iraqi dinar 374.6/ 375.3
Italian lire (for 100) 21.8/ 22
Japanese yen (for 100) 157.4/ 158.3
Kuwaiti dinar 1270/ 1276
Lebanese lira 64.5/ 65.5
Omani rial 109.1/ 109.3
Qatari riyal 103.8/ 104.2
Saudi riyal 45.9/ 46.6
Swedish crown 158.2/ 159.2
Swiss franc 50.3/ 51.2
U.A.E. dirham 103.3/ 103.7
U.K. sterling pound 498.7/ 501.7
U.S. dollar 382/ 384
W. German mark 135.8/ 136.6

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman 16/28
Aqaba 21/35
Deserts 15/34
Jordan Valley 21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Firstaid, fire, police 199
Blood bank 775121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37774
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport. (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 42281-4
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 42281-4
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Mar Elias, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171-4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Husseini 667158
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abadi 665292
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164
Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777101-3
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Agrabawi 24696

MARKET PRICES

Apples 250/ 250
Apricots 300/ 450
Bananas 120/ 80
Bananas (Mukhammar) 120/ 80
Beans 240/ 210
Berries 290/ 250
Cabbage 600/ 500
Carrots 80/ 60
Cauliflower (white) 140/ 100
Cauliflower (all kinds) 200/ 170
Cucumbers (small) 700/ 600
Cucumbers (large) 100/ 80
Eggplants (small) 140/ 110
Eggplants (large) 240/ 200
Figs 200/ 170
Garlic 300/ 270
Grapes 200/ 170

Masri hopes for improved relations with France, EC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has described French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Jordan as "more than successful".

He also expressed hope that it will strengthen Jordan's standing in international circles, particularly within the European Community, and that the visit will help bolster Franco-Jordanian economic and diplomatic relations.

Speaking in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Rai, the minister said that Jordan and France have almost identical views on many Middle Eastern issues.

"The warm feelings exchanged between the leaders of France and Jordan were obvious to all and we hope that bilateral ties will further improve and strengthen on all fronts," the minister said.

Referring to President Mitterrand's open support for an international conference on the Middle East, Mr. Masri said that France, under its present leadership, adopts a leading role in the European Community and it would never hesitate to make any constructive effort towards helping the Palestinian people regain their rights and self-determination.

World Bank approves \$30m transport loan

Washington (R) — The World Bank said Thursday that it has approved a \$30 million loan for a project in Jordan to boost the international trade route capacity.

The bank said in a statement that the \$30 million five-year project, which will help speed shipment of phosphate, potash, fertiliser, cement, and general cargo also includes highway and railway maintenance and equipment as well as consultants for technical assistance.

The project will also build a 30 kilometre, two-lane alignment on

the Aqaba-Amman road, to divert heavy truck traffic from the centre of Aqaba, and a six kilometre 'spur'.

Other financing will come from the Saudi Fund for Development, the Islamic Development Bank, and suppliers' and export credits. Jordan and the Aqaba Ports Corporation will contribute \$75.1 million.

The World Bank loan is for 15 years including three years of grace, with a variable interest rate linked to the cost of borrowing.

Phosphate mining company releases production figures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) production of phosphate reached 3,042,237 tonnes during the first half of this year compared with 2,206,179 tonnes during the same period of last year.

This brings the increase in production during the first half of this year to 37.8 per cent higher than in the same period of the last year.

The JPMC sales of Jordanian phosphate reached a total of 2,357,172 tonnes during the first half of 1984 of which 1,849,740

tonnes were exported and 507,432 tonnes sold to the Jordan Fertilisers Industry Company.

The JPMC production report showed a noticeable increase in the company's production over the year and registered production records, during May and June.

It also said that production increased by 68 per cent more than scheduled in the JPMC production plan approved by its board of directors.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (second right) meets Thursday with administration specialists from the United Nations Development Programme and the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (Petra photo).

'Obeidat meets U.N., Arab administration specialists

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat has expressed Jordan's interest in increasing its co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) which has its headquarters in Amman.

Mr. 'Obeidat said that the government is trying to raise the standard and efficiency of its civil servants in various public departments with the aim of improving services to the public.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting here Thursday with specialists from the UNDP and AOAS. He said that the gov-

ernment attaches great importance to the development of government administration systems because this is bound to help development in every field in the country.

Also speaking at the meeting was AOAS Director-General Dr. Naser Al Sayegh who outlined the organisation's programmes designed to improve the administrative systems in Arab countries.

Mr. Adnan Ra'ouf, the UNDP representative in Jordan, and U.N. specialists also explained progress of a joint administration development programme run by the two organisations during the meeting.

Amman water safe to drink, survey reveals

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey on the water resources in Jordan has revealed that the water in Amman is quite safe to drink and is in accordance with the specifications and standards set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani announced Thursday.

He said that the presence of nitrate traces in the Amman water is quite normal, but as this water is usually mixed with water from the Zarqa region, the supply of water to the capital is of good quality.

However, he said that a number of water springs in Duleil, Al Hufar, Al Azraq and parts of the Jordan Valley have been found to be polluted and unfit for drinking. Two springs near the phosphate mines in Russeifa have been closed for the same reason, Mr. Keilani added.

Most of the underground water sources in Jordan are safe but the WAJ plans to build more wastewater treatment plants and sewerage networks in cities to ensure that the water remains clean, Mr. Keilani said.

The survey on water resources which took one year to complete was conducted in co-operation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sciences.

The two-part survey assessed the water quality in the Amman basin and in the rest of the country. At least 185 samples of drinking water from the Amman area were tested as well as 100 from other parts of the country before the results were announced.



Mohammad Saleh Keilani

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fourteen killed in accidents last week

AMMAN (Petra) — Fourteen people were killed and 121 others were injured in 199 road accidents which occurred all over the country during last week, according to the weekly statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department. The bulletin said that 130 of these accidents occurred in Amman.

Municipality to attend conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality will take part in the third conference of the Organisation of Islamic Cities and Capitals scheduled to start in Ankara Saturday. The municipality will also take part in a seminar on housing scheduled to be held there as an extra to the week-long conference. A three-member delegation will represent the municipality at this conference.

Agriculture experts discuss dry areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an international seminar on waterfalls and the afforestation of dry areas to be held at the University of Arizona in the United States. The one-month seminar will start on July 15. Jordan will be represented at the seminar by the director of forests and pastures at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ghaleb Abu Oraband director of the project to develop the Zarqa dam, Mr. Ahmad Said Abbas.

Civil service official to visit U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat has given the go-ahead for the vice-president of the Civil Service Commission, Khaled Al Radaydeh, to travel to the United States in response to an official invitation from the U.S. Bureau of Civil Servants. During the three-week visit, which will start on July 16, Mr. Radaydeh will be briefed on the regulations and laws in force at the U.S. bureau which deals with the development and promotion of civil service departments.

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Jordanian delegation returns from Gulf war conference

Fayez urges Iran to heed international calls for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez returned home Thursday after heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the "International Conference on the Impacts of the Gulf War on International Security and Peace."



Akef Al Fayez

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra upon his arrival in Amman, Mr. Fayez said he had conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and those of the Jordanian government and people to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi government and people.

During the three day conference, Mr. Fayez delivered a speech in which he called upon Iran to respond immediately to international appeals, United Nations decisions and mediation efforts by peace-loving nations to put an end to the war.

Mr. Fayez also called on the U.N. Secretary-General, the non-aligned states and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to continue in their efforts towards finding a peaceful solution to the conflict and to enforce the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly's decisions.

Mr. Fayez earlier met with Speaker of the Iraqi National Council Na'im Haddad and discussed bilateral relations and also reviewed the current Arab situation as well as dimensions of the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Fayez extended an invitation to Mr. Haddad to visit Jordan as the head of an Iraqi parliamentary delegation.

Jordan's delegation to the three-day conference comprised members of the Upper House Dr. Hazem Nuseibah and Mr. Mulaq Al Hadid and deputies Mr. Ismail Hijazi, Mr. Mufleh Odattallah, Mr. Mohammad Al Haj Abdullah, Mr. Faisal Ibn Jazi, Mr. Mohammad Thwayyeh and Dr. Fawzi Tuaymah.

The conference which was attended by some 700 delegates representing peace movements, liberation groups and factions concluded its meetings in Baghdad

with a statement urging the United Nations and other bodies to continue with their efforts to end the 45-month-old war.

The conferees also called on Iraq and Iran to withdraw their troops to internationally recognised borders.

The conferees also called on all states to refrain from embarking on any act that could prolong the war and decided to form a permanent international committee to coordinate contacts between the U.N. and the mediation committees.



Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jaber (right) is briefed on the progress of a cement factory project in Duleil during a visit to Zarqa (Petra photo).

Abdul Jaber visits employment office, cement factory in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jaber paid a visit Thursday to Zarqa Labour Office where he inspected the progress of work at the office.

Dr. Abdul Jaber was briefed by Zarqa Labour Office Director Ali Bani Hani on the system followed by the office in issuing work permits and registering Jordanian job seekers.

The minister also outlined to the office employees a number of points and general rules to be adhered to in order for the ministry to achieve the goals in the recent amendment to the labour law.

The general principle, Dr. Abdul Jaber said, is that a work permit should not be issued to a non-Jordanian who does not hold a valid passport otherwise, this would encourage the residence of foreigners in the country for longer periods.

A work permit should also not be issued to resident, non-

Jordanians over the age of 65, said Dr. Abdul Jaber. Persons visiting the country for medical treatment or tourism are not eligible for work permits, the minister pointed out.

Dr. Abdul Jaber also visited a factory set up at Duleil near here for the production of white cement which is due to start experimental production in September.

The factory, set up by a joint Jordanian-Syrian company, is expected to cost nearly JD 20 million and its annual production capacity has been estimated at 100,000 tonnes.

The company's director-general, Thabet Al Taher, said that 85 per cent of the project has been completed and production will be sufficient for Jordan and will also cover part of Syria's need for white cement.

Mr. Taher explained the progress of the project to Dr. Abdul

Jaber and senior aides.

The company has received orders from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, and plans to supply these three countries with the surplus of its production in the initial stages.

Later the company hopes to increase the production capacity to 200,000 tonnes annually to meet extra demand, Mr. Taher said. This year, however, the company hopes to produce 42,000 tonnes, Mr. Taher added.

Fifty per cent of the company's capital is owned by the Jordanian and Syrian governments whilst the Social Security Corporation owns ten per cent, the Syrian cement company owns 25 per cent, the Pension Fund, ten per cent and the Post Office Savings Fund the remaining five per cent, according to Mr. Taher.

He added that the factory will create 200 jobs which will be offered to Jordanian workers in the Duleil and Zarqa area.

Pan-Arab environment seminar suggests anti-pollution measures

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Three-day pan-Arab seminar on environmental pollution in the Arab World concluded its meetings Thursday at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nahulsi thanked the 60 participants and experts for their efforts and useful papers and for their help in making this seminar a success.

The minister said that Jordan is conducting a study for establishing new environmental laws and hopes to form a new council that specialised in the environment and concerned with environmental organisations.

During the last day of the seminar participants discussed many working papers that dealt with environmental pollution, pollution in Jerash, plant regression in Jordan, desertification, and research on the city environment and noise pollution.

Implementation problem

During the last session, Mr. Yilmaz Guror, special advisor to the Turkish Minister of Public Works, said that the methods of technology, research analysis and surveys are very developed in Jordan, but that the results never been implemented in accordance with the high level and standards of these surveys.

"There is a need for a co-ordination body between different organisations in Jordan in order to overcome the problem of lack of implementation," Mr. Guror added.

The rise in demand for land and the increase in construction together with transit traffic in the city will create a problem of traffic congestion and will add to the pollution problem in Jordan, said Mr. Guror.

Another problem Mr. Guror pointed out was the unplanned architectural development. The complete coverage of land areas with buildings is a trend that I have noticed in Jordan, he said, which is preventing the creation of green

areas between, or in front of, buildings. This in turn will add to the pollution in Jordan, he added.

Jordan 'noisier than Germany'

Noise pollution was also given special attention during the seminar. Dr. Volker Immer, a West German expert, gave an outline of noise pollution in Jordan and West Germany.

"Despite the fact that both countries use the same vehicles, there is a big difference between the manner, motivation and behaviour of the drivers in Jordan and those in Germany," said Dr. Immer. "I think that noise pollution in Jordan is much more than we have in Germany be stated."

A paper on plant regression in Jordan was presented by Dr. Jaradat. He highlighted the importance of restoring and enriching the gene pool of the cultivated plants. Dr. Jaradat suggested the establishment of a gene bank for grasses and other plants growing in different habitats in Jordan.

Recommendations

The recommendations issued at the end of the seminar urged the need for a regional comprehensive plan for protecting the environment and connecting these with the developing plans. Also priorities should be given to city planning putting standardisation of national environmental measures as a step towards unifying these measures in the Arab World.

The seminar also requested the proper use of the national resources, and the preservation and development of all settlements and reserves in Jordan.

Unified administration

The seminar also recommended the setting up a unified administration for environmental awareness to co-ordinate between the concerned parties in setting up environmental awareness programmes.

In order to avoid duplication and contradiction, the seminar

recommended that there should be some kind of co-ordination between different Arab organisations concerned with environmental problems.

Recommendations urged the carrying out of comprehensive surveys on the environment and setting up specialised training institutions as well as modifying and developing the existing laws that govern the environmental protection.

It also urged scientific research in environmental fields and support for universities and research centres to carry out the fundamental applied research between Arab nations.

The seminar emphasised the importance of holding specialised seminars on all environmental problems faced by the Arab World.

Upon a request by Morocco asking for a conference of Arab ministries of environment, the seminar recommended that the Arab League holds a preparatory meeting of environment experts in order to put the frame work and strategy for such a high level conference.

The seminar also requested the Arab League for Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisations (ALESCO) to carry out the environmental control network in the Arab World.

As this seminar was held in accordance with a resolution from the Arab housing and reconstruction ministers after their meeting in Tunisia last year, the seminar highly recommended that these recommendations must be adopted and carried out properly.

Cables of thanks

At the end of the seminar the organisers sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary chairwoman of the National Environment Protection Committee, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, and to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Hamdullah Al Nahulsi, thanking them for the hospitality extended to the participants of this seminar.



Arab and international experts in the field of environmental science discuss pollution and its effects during a three-day seminar which concluded Thursday (Petra photo).

Jordan Times

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 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

Al Ra'i: Scratching one's back

IT IS both dangerous and wrong to link the results of the election campaign in Israel with the future of the Palestine question. The advertised propaganda and television electoral contests (debate) between supporters of the governing Likud Party and its opponents re-affirm the conviction that the difference between both parties is in fact a tactical one, and that neither of them would hesitate to boost of its aggressive practices against Arabs while in power.

Therefore no hopes should be pinned on what is said in such publicity campaigns and competitions because they will never result in any constructive results with concern to the Palestine question, even if some international circles try to exaggerate what the results of the Israeli elections might bring.

Arab strength and not the results of Israeli elections is the only factor capable of changing the intransigent Israeli position towards the Palestine question. It is the only means capable of opening the way for a just and comprehensive solution. Hence, it is our duty as Arabs to live up to the level of challenges irrespective of whoever comes to power in Israel.

We should not forget that only through building the self Arab force we can achieve our goals and restore our rights whatever the results of the Israeli elections might be.

Believing in this, Jordan has always called for rebuilding Arab force without any hesitation or delay. Western politicians can wait for the outcome of the Israeli election whilst Arabs should not, because these are no concern of theirs.

Arabs should not wait somebody to present them with the just solution for their just cause on a silver tray, because it will never happen. They themselves have to find that solution through a strong Arab position, capable of prompting Israel to relinquish its intransigence.

Al Dustour: Israel understands fist talk

THE ISRAELI government's decision Thursday to establish eight new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is not a mere election campaign element on the part of the Likud Party. It unveils the insistence by Israel to pursue the extremist method which aims at imposing a fait accompli in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also aims at planting new facts that can hardly be changed on the Arab soil even if the elections came up with new faces to power.

Those following up the Likud practices over the past seven years can easily observe that the outcome of the Likud's settlement activities is more than one hundred settlements, which have cost more than \$9 billion to establish in the West Bank alone. This was revealed during the television contest, recently shown on Israeli Television, between Peres and Shamir.

The most astonishing thing is that the settlement activities nowadays are viewed as natural things that do not arouse a word of criticism or protest by the international community. On the contrary, such an activity is fully supported by the United States, which has been financing all settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories.

What is also most astonishing is the Arab silence over the Israeli settlement activities which are the most dangerous practices, and the whole issue has turned into a routine job in which Arabs have no interest at all.

Arabs can not do anything to confront the Israeli expansionist policy as long as they are running after futile diplomatic choices, which reality has shown to be no more than night ghosts called by the inability to move and chronic hesitation.

Arabs can not do anything as long as they link their dreams and political moves with the results of the U.S. elections which are about to change into a waiting wall for Arab inability. Finally, it is high time for Arabs to understand that unifying their efforts and rallying their ranks are the only means for restoring their rights.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: France for world conference.

THE VISIT by French President Francois Mitterrand to Jordan and the talks he held with King Hussein have drawn the attention and interest of world capitals and diplomatic circles. Diplomatic sources said that the talks caused a flurry of diplomatic activity and contacts by French officials in Cairo, Tel Aviv and Damascus because they had dealt with issues of concern to the whole region.

No doubt, the visit has revealed that France is in full support of an international conference to discuss the Middle East question, that Jordanian French views are almost identical on the issue, and that France supports Jordan's call for an exchange of land for peace and the need for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Of course the Arabs are not asking France to solve the problem on their behalf but they hope that France will take steps to help the Arabs regain their rights and end the conflict. They want France to persuade the U.S. to stop opposing the holding of the projected international conference so that a durable and lasting peace can be sought.

Al Dustour: Improving Lebanon situation

THE LEBANESE government Wednesday held its session at the presidential palace for the first time. This is an indicator that Lebanon is returning to peace and to normal life following years of internal strife.

The meeting at the palace indicates that the leaders of the warring factions who form the cabinet have after all returned to reason and to adopting a constructive political dialogue instead of fighting. They have proved that they are keen on giving priority to national interests rather than to their own selfish objectives. The meeting, amid signs of peace and security everywhere coincided with the start of implementing a security and reform plan in Lebanon that would enable the country to breathe and to start thinking of reconstruction and peace.

Furthermore, the government has embarked on a task of solving the issue of kidnapped people, a step which is bound to win the government more public confidence. The port and the airport are now open, the two parts of the city of Beirut are united and peace has been restored to many parts of the country thanks to the awareness of the Lebanese people and the relentless efforts of the Rashid Karani government.

Let us hope that the measures so far taken will be followed by more constructive steps towards achieving a national reconciliation which is a basic element for a lasting peace.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Any kind of U.S.-Soviet accord will help

SAN FRANCISCO—Even as war goes on in the Khalij (Gulf), Sikhs grow angrier, Lebanese die, and famine and drought continue to spread over Africa, there are faint hopes that the two great superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR might be considering once again talking seriously about arms and economic accords.

There is so much cynicism in the U.S. that even the big newspapers wonder whether Reagan's softer position on arms talks is really just an election year trick. "Won't the real ferocious Reagan come forth once he has won the election?"—so goes a widely held belief among news people and ordinary folks as well.

But there are good reasons to think that U.S.-Soviet relations are taking a new turn. Remember how Nixon went

to China in February 1972 and then to the USSR in May. Appearing as a man of peace gave him a big advantage in the campaign. And he was also helped by economic growth which he himself helped stimulate by deciding to increase spending late in 1970. Exactly at the same time, Nixon made fundamental moves which finally led to the major breakthroughs with China and the USSR. It worked like a charm for Nixon.

The situation in the U.S. is not all that different now. Reagan has managed to get the economy growing again. The big increase in military spending has been a major factor pushing the economy out of recession. The inflation rate remains low. And while interest rates are high, chances are they will stay reasonable

until after the election. (However, once the election is over, there is real concern that they could shoot up; in early 1973, just after Nixon won the election, prices and wages began to shoot up).

In March 1973, Reagan made a speech that chilled Americans: he spoke of Communists as the world's greatest evil (sounding like the Ayatollah after the U.S.); but since then he has dropped the rhetoric. The Soviet walkout from the Geneva conference on intermediate range missiles clearly upset the Americans. And since then behind-the-scenes efforts, hampered by the illness and death of Andropov, have been under way to re-establish a U.S.-Soviet link.

The deployment of U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles in

Western Europe turned out not to be such a fearful thing after all. Only a few were actually put in place. And the few SS-20s that the Soviets put in East Germany and Czechoslovakia did not much change the military balance while infuriating the leaders and people of those countries.

While it would not seem hard to reach agreement on intermediate missiles, such agreement is not very likely.

Somewhat more likely is an agreement to scrap the U.S. MX missile programme for Soviet mobile land-based missiles. But MX has already been badly battered in U.S. Congressional debate so that an agreement would not have that much political effect. The most alluring possibility lies in the "Star Wars" area. The U.S. has flight-tested an anti-missile

missile (that is a missile that can shoot down a missile). The Soviets have been working on such a missile but they are, apparently, far behind the U.S. technology. There is a lot of opposition to, and fear about the Star Wars programme.

If the U.S. and the USSR reached some kind of tentative understanding on the issue of Star Wars weapons, it would have an enormous effect on U.S. and Western public opinion. It would be a new version of SALT I, which was a treaty banning ABM systems.

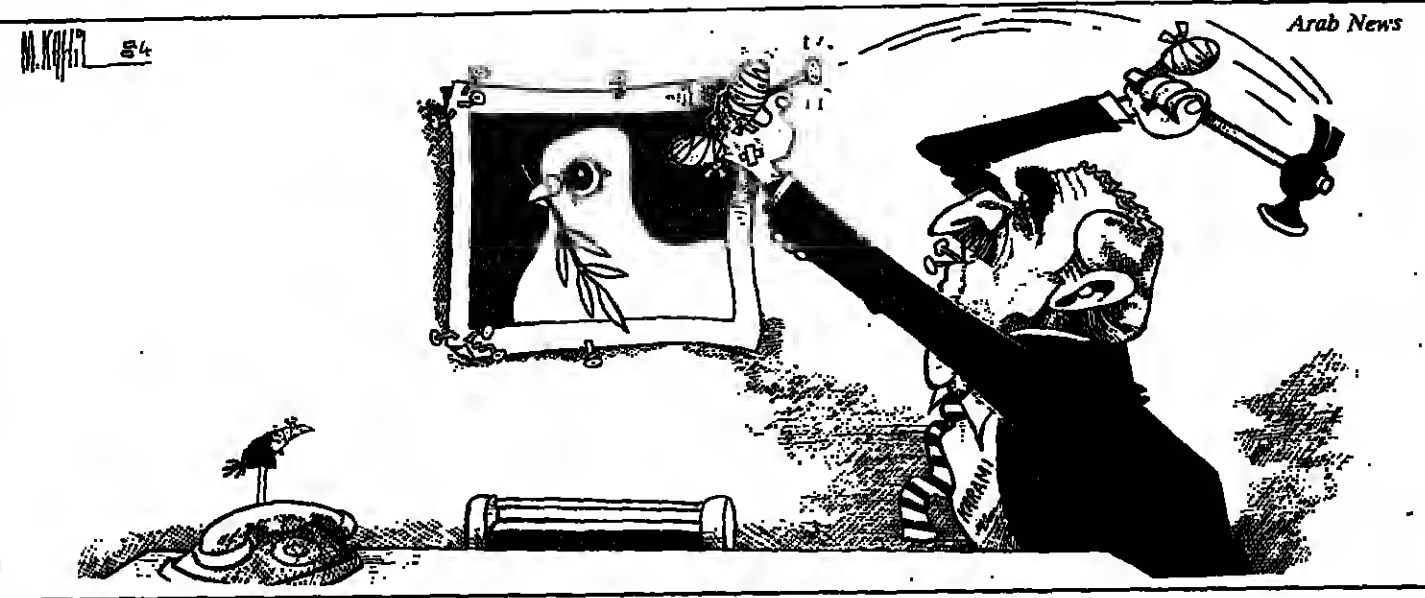
The real point is that both the U.S. and the USSR are beginning to feel the enormous economic effect of huge defence spending. Furthermore both are having new thoughts about war. The Soviets are still stuck in Afghanistan and the U.S. is dangerously close to

being sucked into the Central American wars.

And there is the intriguing fact that the U.S. and the USSR are now, for the first time in post-war history, both supporting the same side in a conflict: Iraq.

If the U.S. and the USSR should reach some sort of agreement, no matter how tentative, would this help, hinder or mean nothing so far as other conflicts in the world are concerned? It would be of no help so far as Afghanistan, Central America or any of the other civil-war conflicts are concerned. But it could help end the Iran-Iraq war. In fact, even the limited truce in that war, so far, may partly be the result of Iran's isolation in the face of U.S.-Soviet pressure.

Any kind of U.S.-Soviet accord will help.



Pertini opens 7th year as president

By Tony Austin
 Reuters

ROME — Sandro Pertini has entered what could be his seventh and final year as Italian president, unless the sprightly 87-year-old decides to stand for another term.

The bald, pipe-smoking figure is without doubt Italy's most popular head of state for decades and could confidently expect to coast home if he stood for re-election in July next year.

Mr. Pertini, a diminutive but robust former partisan who spent 15 years in Fascist jails, has left open his option of running for a second term, which if completed would take him to the age of 95. He began his seventh year on Sunday.

A life-long Socialist, his appeal to the Italian public lies in his ability to rise above partisan interests in a political system where the spirit of Machiavelli is still strong.

While lesser men bicker and quibble over the spoils of public office, Mr. Pertini wins hearts with his plain speaking and common sense.

When Communist Party leader Enrico Berlinguer died on June 11, Mr. Pertini wept at his deathbed and ordered the coffin of "my brother and fellow socialist" to be

taken to Rome in the presidential plane.

Two weeks later, he used the plane to bring home the coffin of Christian Democratic Senator Antonio Bisaglia after his death in a boating accident in Liguria.

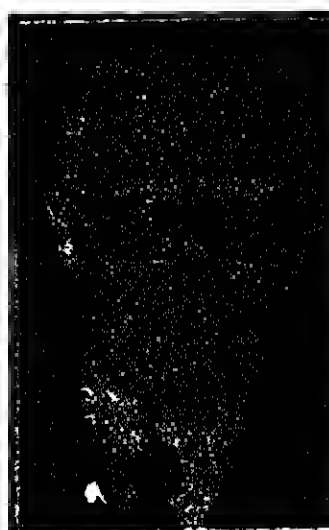
His first surprise after being elected six years ago was to give up the presidential suite in the Quirinal Palace in favour of his modest apartment near the Trevi Fountain.

But the incident which characterised him as a man of the people was when, during Italy's 1982 World Cup Soccer win over West Germany, he ignored presidential protocol and danced with joy like any other Italian fan.

Nor did he hide his disappointment when Liverpool beat Roma in the final of the Soccer European Champions' Cup in May.

Mr. Pertini's popularity, however goes deeper than his ability to identify with the hopes and aspirations of the Italian nation.

He took over as head of state when the office had fallen into disrepute through the resignation of his predecessor, Christian Democrat Giovanni Leone, over alleged involvement in financial scandal. But in the space of six years



Pertini... transformed presidency

Mr. Pertini restored its dignity and prestige.

For many he has come to symbolise Italy's progress from the days of urban terrorism in the 1970s to the relative calm and stability of the present decade.

A trenchant critic of human rights abuses, Mr. Pertini's 1983 condemnation of the missing persons problem in Argentina was one of the most outspoken by any

world leader.

Such is his moral authority that less than two years later, President Raul Alfonsin and Argentina's large ethnic Italian population are preparing an enthusiastic reception for Mr. Pertini's state visit there next autumn.

Mr. Pertini is especially at home among the armed forces, whether drinking a toast in the dugout of the peace-keeping force in Beirut or at parades on Rome's Via Dei Fori Imperiali.

His style does not suit everybody. He was accused of interfering when he tried to join a rescue operation for a six-year-old boy who fell and died in a well three years ago.

Last Christmas he applauded young people who opposed the installation of U.S. cruise missiles at Comiso, Sicily, but later toned down his remarks amid charges that he had publicly undermined government policy.

Mr. Pertini has visited Jordan and Britain so far this year. When he met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during an Anglo-Italian summit last spring he told her: "You are more beautiful than ever."

She replied: "And you look younger than ever."

U.S. tries to contain latest Greek storm

By William Scally
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration seems to turn the other cheek to a blast of criticism from Greece while privately considering how to handle its latest quarrel with the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

While Athens has accused the United States this week of launching an offensive against the Greek government, the State Department has emphasised the importance of U.S.-Greek ties.

But at the same time, Washington was expected to bar the transfer of surplus U.S.-made F-5 interceptors from Norway to Greece, and authorise the transfer to Turkey, officials said.

The latest dispute erupted in May when Greece released a Jordanian the U.S. said had planted a bomb in a suitcase aboard a commercial flight from Athens to Tel Aviv. The device failed to explode.

The action added to U.S. unhappiness over Greek failure to make arrests in the murder in Athens last November of U.S. Navy Captain George Tsantes.

The Papandreu government has long been at odds with the United States and other NATO countries over attitudes towards the Soviet Union and U.S. military aid to Turkey, Greece's long-standing foe.

Last Sunday Greece accused the U.S. of overrunning Turkey. It said preserving the Greek-Turkish power balance was essential to good relations between Athens and Washington, "which include hosting U.S. bases as well as hosting the Voice of America."

The State Department has refused to respond to the accusations. Spokesman Alan Romberg merely said Tuesday that the United States was ready to resume negotiations on the lapsed agreements covering the two Voice of America transmitting stations in Greece.

Regarding the transfer of F-5 aircraft, officials said Turkey had submitted a request for the planes long before Greece expressed interest. But the expected transfer of the planes to Turkey is bound to provoke another blast from Athens.

Greece has long been able to count on strong support from the U.S. Congress which has a number of members of Greek descent and others representing sizeable Greek-American communities.

Turkey lacks similar grassroots allies in the United States and has aroused hostility with its military occupation of northern Cyprus. But a key congressman, Indiana Democrat Lee Hamilton, recently raised questions about Greek policies, including a Papandreu speech in May denouncing the United States as imperialist and praising the Soviet Union.

Mr. Hamilton said there was "a rising frustration" in Congress with Mr. Papandreu's attacks on the United States that could not continue "without at some point eroding the congressional support for Greece."

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt told Mr. Hamilton the United States had exercised "a great deal of patience" in dealing with Mr. Papandreu. "We have tried to be in a position to argue credibly that if there is a real break in the U.S.-Greece relationship, that it has come about because of intemperance on the part of Mr. Papandreu and not on the part of the U.S. government," Mr. Burt said.

It was frustrating, he said, to deal with an ally that defended the Soviet Union and criticised the United States, and that supported Soviet arms control proposals but refused to join a NATO consensus on deploying new nuclear weapons.

There is no denying that future negotiations between Europe and the Third World depend to a great extent on the attitude of the people of Europe. This includes not only their attitude towards developing countries, but also their acceptance of the very principle of aid and their judgement of how effective the different forms of co-operation really are.

An opinion poll, carried out in the ten member states of the European Community, gives us a special insight into how the minds of Europe work. The results, even in these times of economic gloom in Europe, are more positive than most would have believed. Although the fight against unemployment is by far and away Europe's most serious concern, a total of 82 per cent of Europeans still support Third World aid and 42 per cent would maintain this position even if the crisis continued and threatened their living standards.

There is, however, a marked scepticism accompanying this generous attitude as to the efficiency of the aid and the possibility of resolving the vast problem of under-development. Some 62 per cent of those questioned do not believe that the problem of hunger in the world will be resolved in the near future. As far as the efficiency of development assistance is concerned, one in four Europeans believe that private organisations are best placed, while only one in ten consider the work of European governments or the EEC itself to be the most efficient. This indicates that there is a serious problem in

respect of Official Development Assistance. In addition to this is the responsibility given by European public opinion to the Third World countries themselves. The "clashes" most often used are: "Third World populations are growing too rapidly", "A rich minority is exploiting the people", "They must be encouraged to develop in their own way rather than trying to imitate us", "They will never be able to have stable regimes".

So, what should be done? The answers given most frequently by the Europeans questioned are shown below:

1. Give the people the equipment and the training necessary to enable them to cope with their most basic needs and development in a self-sufficient way.
2. Promote small projects which have a direct effect on the lives of the people.
3. Ensure that the aid is effectively given to help the poorest populations.
4. Train the people in such a way that they can play a more useful role in their own countries.

In spite of their problems, therefore, the European people have not chosen to turn in on themselves. But their generosity goes hand in hand with a demand for efficiency. We must help, yes, but on condition that the aid is effectively translated in terms of development, a reduction in poverty and hunger! This is the challenge facing those responsible for development in governments both "North" and "South". European Communities bulletin.

Will Hong Kong be another Shanghai?

By Tse Pui Shan
 Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong, which will become part of China in 1997, is haunted by the ghost of its former twin city Shanghai, whose meteoric rise as China's financial and industrial hub ended when the Communists came to power in 1949.

Will history repeat itself in this bustling capitalist free port of 5.5 million people? Will Hong Kong become a second Shanghai? These are some of the intriguing questions puzzling academics.

Striking similarities exist between today's Hong Kong and pre-1949 Shanghai, the two most important British concessions in China.

Both cities are major ports on the Chinese coast and are partly derived from the same treaty. Hong Kong and Shanghai were wrested from China at the height of gunboat diplomacy in the 19th century, when foreign imperialist powers forced a weak China to concede many of its territorial and sovereignty rights.

Britain and China fought the first opium war from 1839-1842 because Chinese authorities attempted to halt the illegal import of opium by British merchants. In 1841, the two countries agreed on the Chuenpi Convention, which ceded Hong Kong Island to Britain.

Neither side was happy with the convention. The cession aroused shame and anger among the Chinese while British officials were dissatisfied with "a barren island

with hardly a house upon it. Hostilities soon resumed, when British forces threatened to assault Nanking City, the treaty of Nanking was signed in 1842 to end the conflict.

The treaty formalised the cession of Hong Kong Island and opened five Chinese ports, including Shanghai, to British trade and consuls.

The supplementary treaty of the Bogue was signed the following year, granting extraterritorial rights to British subjects in the five treaty ports. British subjects came under the control of their consuls and were beyond Chinese jurisdiction.

Shanghai, where three-quarters of the 400 million pounds sterling (eds: 1948 exchange rate against U.S. dollar unavailable) of British investment in China was concentrated, thus became a colony like Hong Kong in all but name.

Amid tension caused by China's wars with other countries, Britain felt that control of the land around Hong Kong harbour was imperative for an effective defence.

Under the convention of Peking in 1898, Britain leased the new territories, which comprise the bulk of mainland territory and 235 islands, or roughly 92 per cent of Hong Kong's territory.

This lease lies at the heart of all problems besetting Hong Kong. Chinese leaders declare they will recover sovereignty over all of Hong Kong, not just the new territories, when the lease expires in 1997.

British and international administration and investments have

helped propel Shanghai to the forefront of the Chinese economy.

Shanghai became the "Paris of the East" and the "capital of the tycoon." Similarly, Britain turned Hong Kong from a barren island into the "pearl of the Orient" and the world's third-largest financial centre.

Hong Kong is a major source of foreign exchange earnings as well as an important entry point of foreign technology for China. Hong Kong's role towards China is similar to Shanghai's before 1949.

Foreigners earlier had received a pledge from Chinese Nationalist Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek that their interests would be safeguarded.

It was on the strength of this pledge that Chiang prevailed upon two other wartime allied leaders, American President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, to agree in 1943 to abolish extraterritoriality in China.

Under Communist rule, Shanghai was transformed from a centre of capitalism into a bastion of revolutionary radicalism.

In 1966, the "gang of four" radicals led by Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching, launched the "Cultural Revolution" from their power base in Shanghai.

Chinese leaders now promise Hong Kong residents that their social, economic and political systems will remain unchanged for half a century after the 1997 takeover.

But Hong Kong residents,

about one-third of whom have fled from China to save their interests, still remember Shanghai and wonder whether the "pearl of the Orient" would slip from riches to rags like the "Paris of the East."

Despite the interesting parallel between the two cities, there are major differences.

Shanghai was in the throes of civil war and the Nationalists blocked the port after the Communist takeover. In contrast, Hong Kong's recovery is being achieved peacefully through negotiations.

No sovereignty issue was involved in Shanghai whereas China will recover Hong Kong's sovereignty from Britain. Also, most Shanghai residents welcomed the liberation of their city while Hong Kong people are said to fear Communist rule.

Frank Chao Sze-Bang, president of Wah Kwong, a shipping empire originating from a small shipping line that was based in Hong Kong when Shanghai fell, says he believes Chinese leaders are sincere in their pledge to maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

But Jardine Matheson, the oldest and one of the largest trading firms in Hong Kong, has voted with its feet by moving its corporate headquarters to Bermuda.

The announcement in March sent shock waves throughout the financial community.

Despite an official denial, sceptics remain convinced that Jardine's decision was influenced by its experience in Shanghai, where it lost substantial investments.

But Hong Kong residents,

Jep in 1.5

Anyone interested in a theatre group?



Talking
straight
Marwan
Muasher

JORDAN'S CULTURAL movement is a movement on the upbeat. Jordanians are no longer sufficing with economic security; they have started to take a hard look at themselves, explore their own depths, and to the process enrich Jordanian life with a modern culture all their own.

Whereas such a cultural movement cannot be claimed to be institutionalised yet, emerging individual talents are no longer sporadic or isolated either. In the past ten years, there has been a phenomenal growth in the number of photographers, sculptors, writers and artists of all kinds concerned with and able to produce quality work. The establishment of centres at the Jordan Art Gallery and the Royal Cultural Centre attests to the fact that Jordanians are finally eager to develop a part of their life that has hitherto been almost left virgin.

One particular aspect of this cultural movement I have particular interest in is that of the theatre. I am not in a position to judge the Jordanian Theatre, although I think it is safe to say that it is still in its infancy. There have been several attempts in the past to establish

theatrical groups, with varying degrees of success. But it is a fact today that plays are still shown sporadically, many times translated from foreign languages, and that Jordanians are unfamiliar yet with the tradition of "going to the theatre".

Beyond, and because of, this infant theatre movement, there are several reasons why Jordanians do not go to the theatre. The first one is that up till recently there was no theatre to go to. Other than several halls that are not ideally suited to serve as a theatre, physically there was no place designed exclusively for this purpose. Today, the situation has been somewhat remedied with the establishment of the Royal Cultural Centre, although it will take more than one stage to sustain a lasting movement.

The physical setting of a theatre is not exactly the issue, however. More importantly, there have been no professional or amateur groups in Jordan, past or present, that have systematically produced plays over the years. What we have witnessed have been "sparks", spontaneous realisations of ideas by dedicated and enthusiastic people, who

nevertheless could not withstand the harsh realities of financial resources scarcity, and thus could not last beyond a play or two. One hardly has to point out that it does not pay to be in the theatre profession in Jordan. We are a long way from that "stage" (no pun intended), which is why the burden still lies, and may be appropriately so at present, with amateur groups who are enthusiastic enough (and have other sources of income) to continuously raise the level of awareness among people to a state where professional groups can someday afford to exist.

Such groups have a formidable task ahead of them, for while only amateurs, they have to produce work of high enough quality to convince people to come to the theatre. Perhaps this is the crux of the problem. Perhaps such quality work has not been abundant in the past, luring otherwise interested people away from the theatre.

One common problem our plays, be it ones written for the theatre or for TV, suffer is their directness. Most assume a paternalistic attitude, preaching moralities in such a direct

manner that turns most people off. Whereas many start with good ideas, this direct, unimaginative manner in which these ideas are delivered leaves no room for the spectators' imagination to relate these ideas to their own experiences and in the process feel their impact. What is needed is but a hint, left to the person to mould it into shape, rather than a finished thought that insults his imagination by telling him how to perceive right and wrong.

Emily Dickinson, the famous American poet, wrote a beautiful piece of verse outlining this human tendency to more readily accept the indirect:

Tell all the truth
But tell it slant
Success in circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As lightning to the children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind

Another problem our plays suffer from is that they are often too general to be effective. Instead of having one dominant theme to focus on, a particular play often deals with

an assortment of issues, leading to a superficial treatment and a diffusion of the play's central message. This technique has been employed in the past either to avoid censorship by belauding the issue behind a set of generalities, or in order not to appease the audience, who might find a strong message too critical of society and thus of themselves. The end effect is a weakly delivered statement or set of statements that do not compel people to take a harder look at themselves, and certainly do not leave any lasting impressions.

Theatre is a very powerful medium through which messages can be transmitted, if one is well aware of how to use it. It appeals both to people's minds and emotions, making it an extremely sophisticated and complex form of art. It also has the unique attribute of interacting directly with people. A writer has delayed and contemplated feedback from some of his/her readers as to what they think of his/her ideas. In theatre, feedback is spontaneous, instantaneous, continuous and universal. It is thus instinctive, and sincere.

To achieve such a level in a theatre movement is no easy

feat. For it requires, among other things, good scriptwriters, educated, aware of the issues, and able to translate ideas into witty dialogues that are enjoyable and implicit not in the messages they deliver, but in how they deliver them. It requires able and dedicated actors, directors, singers, dancers, and all the other supporting crew that have the necessary dedication and enthusiasm to voice whatever concerns they have effectively, raising the level of appreciation among citizens as they do so. Most of all, the issues that are dealt with need to be specific, well-defined themes that are treated with sophistication and depth. They should hit at the core of our problems, undaunted by their frankness or disturbing implications. A good play can go a long way in exposing a nation to itself, forcing people to come face to face with their own identities.

We need new blood, which is why I think the new generation has a golden opportunity to voice its concerns through such a theatre group. I feel this new generation has a lot to say, with a lot of energy and talent floating around, waiting to be channelled. A theatre group

composed of young men and women, doing their own writing, acting and directing could be accused of being too amateur-like, too novice. Such a group though, can have great potential, because it will most surely present a fresh, untraditional look at issues of great concern to the Jordanian society. The enthusiasm, dedication and education of such a group can be sufficient in producing quality work that is of great social value. It is an attempt I believe is worth trying.

That is why I going to do something unusual in this article that I hope will survive my editor's censorship. I have fiddled with the idea of the formation of such a group for a long time. I think it is time to put it to work. I want to ask all those that are interested, be it actors, directors, singers, dancers, writers or just enthusiastic young men and women willing to contribute, to contact me personally or through the paper to discuss the formation of such a group. I am a firm believer that this new generation can do much more than it is given credit for. A theatre group can prove what potential we possess. Together, we can make it happen.

Mexican quarry workers find prehistoric treasure trove

By Boris Weintraub

LONG BEACH — To begin with, the fossils are beautiful.

Scientists who have seen some of the fossilised fish, crustaceans, snails, and other specimens from a quarry at Tepexi de Rodriguez, 130 miles east of Mexico City, call them "exquisite" and "elegant". They are startling in their completeness, vivid in their details.

But that is just the beginning. For the Tepexi fossils are yielding huge amounts of information about water-dwelling animals of a little-known time, about 115 million years ago. In two years, the quarry has produced more than a thousand specimens. About 425 are fish, including representatives of 45 species, most of them new to science.

A lizard too

And it has produced one land animal, a little lizard related to contemporary lizards, complete to the last detail, including its toenails.

"It is a world-class specimen," says Dr. George Callison, a biologist at California State University at Long Beach.

Dr. Callison, an expert on prehistoric lizards, is leading the scientific study of the Tepexi fossils, along with a Virginia-born colleague, Shelton P. Applegate of the Geological Institute of the National University of Mexico.

To Dr. Callison, the most important thing about the quarry is that it provides the opportunity to study a total community of prehistoric creatures. He can examine their relationships to each other and to previously known sites, older and younger.

The fossils began to turn up in the early 1960s, when the family of Miguel Aranguthy, frustrated by their inability to grow crops in

the rocky soil and semiarid climate of Tepexi, decided to dig out some of the area's colorful stone and sell it to builders.

The rocks pried out by Mr. Aranguthy and his five sons seemed to be laminated, and came out in layered slabs with red and yellow patterns. The family thought they could be used to decorate houses, and sold them to truckers passing on a nearby road. It was not until the early 1980s that the fossils first came to the attention of scientists. A technical assistant at the Geological Institute, Pompeyo Lopez Neri, took some fossils by bus from Tepexi to Mexico City, where he showed them to Applegate.

"Let's go to Tepexi tomorrow," Applegate said immediately.

Family co-operates

Applegate woo the co-operation of the Aranguthy family, and also the support of a Mexican government agency that helps Indians. The agency is now building a museum for the fossils. Most of them will be cared for at the Geological Institute.

Though Tepexi today is far from any ocean, it apparently was located near the edge of what is now the Pacific during the time the fossils began forming. The actual fossil site was a lagoon separated from the ocean by a reef.

"A lagoon environment is much quieter than the ocean itself, less subject to currents or wave action," Dr. Callison explains. "But because it is isolated from the main part of the ocean, it can occasionally become inhospitable to life. That's what happened here."

Dr. Callison is not sure precisely what happened, but periodically something would kill everything that lived in the lagoon.

It might be an enormous bloom in micro-organisms that would exhaust available oxygen, or an

increase in the salinity or lime content of the water. Whatever it was, the skeletons would sink to the bottom and eventually be covered by a layer of limestone.

Then ocean water would burst in over the reef barrier, bringing in new life, and the process would start all over again. Dr. Callison does not know how often the life-and-death cycle took place; it may have been seasonal, annual, or every few years. But the evidence for the cycle is in the fossil record.

The predominance of fish is important because they are nearly evenly divided between two groups: Holosteans, with thick, rhomboid-shaped scales and lacking a true backbone, and Teleosts, with circular thin scales and a well-formed backbone.

An unusual site

Few similar marine sites from the Cretaceous period, the time of the Tepexi deposits, have produced fish fossils. The best-known site is at Solnhofen in southern Bavaria, which has produced fossils for 500 years, dated at about 140 million years ago. A site in Lebanon has fossils about 75 million years old.

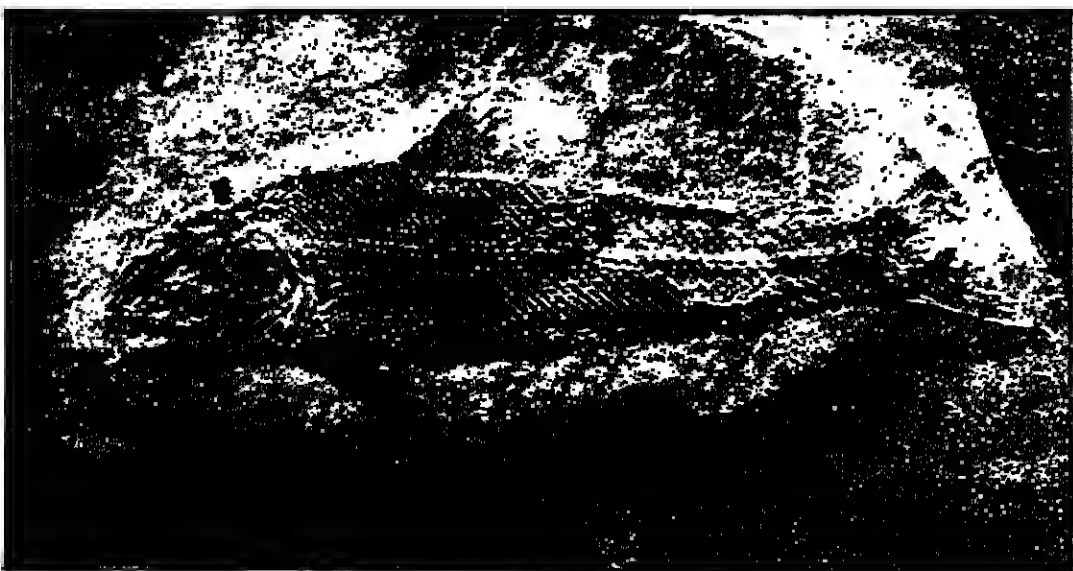
Scientists will be studying Tepexi's fossils for a long time. For the Aranguthy family and other residents of the isolated Indian town, the fossils mean a source of fame and a sense of pride.

The governor of the state of Puebla has already dedicated the new museum, which is expected to open this summer. It is, of course, faced with stone from the fossil-producing quarry. When scientists come to the community, they are treated like visiting royalty. Dr. Callison says, and Tepexi's residents regard the fossils as part of Mexico's heritage. — National Geographic feature.



Workers haul stones away from a fossil-producing quarry in the Mexican town of Tepexi de Rodriguez. The layers of stone contain fossils deposited about

115 million years ago, when the area was part of a lagoon separated from an ocean by a barrier reef.



Fossil fish, such as this unusually complete and perfectly preserved prehistoric swimmer, make up the largest number of specimens from the quarry at Tepexi de Rodriguez, Mexico. This fish lived at a time when one group of fish was slowly being replaced by another as dominant in the world's oceans. The two groups of fish are almost evenly distributed in the rich strata of fossils from Tepexi — unlike specimens found both at older and at younger sites.

The two groups of fish are almost evenly distributed in the rich strata of fossils from Tepexi — unlike specimens found both at older and at younger sites.

'Hotline' comes to age, in need of rejuvenation

By Rodney Pinder
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The crisis "Hotline" between Washington and Moscow celebrates its 21st birthday next month but U.S. and Soviet officials began talks Wednesday on rejuvenating a system long past its prime.

The link, introduced in 1963 to avoid an accidental superpower war, has been overtaken by space-age technology. At a time when routine data can travel the world in milliseconds, the presidents of the United States and Soviet Union in an emergency can "talk" at only 67 words a minute.

Officials say the hotline has served well in heading off possible misunderstandings several times in the past. But in the 1980s it appears to have lapsed into disuse as relations between the superpowers have cooled over.

"The hotline is seldom used or even mentioned," said a New York Times article on its 20th anniversary last year. "So far, (there has been) little to communicate."

Analysts believe that situation has prevailed in the 1980s.

Thanks to films and television, much of the world had a misconception about the hotline. The two most powerful men on earth do not have red telephones beside them, next to their doomsday buttons, which they can grab and snap: "Get me Chernenko (or Reagan)."

Instead, at each end of secure satellite and radio links, there are teleprinters manned 24 hours a day by professional operators whose job it is to monitor the machines for incoming messages and type out their leader's response or initiative.

The lines are constantly "live" and permit two-way conversations which are recorded on paper, like telex messages. The American president communicates in Eng-

lish, his counterpart in Russian and translators stand by at each end.

The original hotline was agreed in June 1963, after the Cuban missile crisis, and was operating two months later. U.S. officials do not discuss when or how often the line is used.

But according to newspapers and memoirs of former government officials, President Johnson and Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin exchanged messages on it to contain the 1967 Middle East war.

It was employed again during the 1971 India-Pakistan crisis, Afghanistan in 1979, these reports said.

It was activated each time on the initiative of the United States, the reports say. But there is no public record of it having been used since President Reagan took office in 1980.

Robert Hunter, a senior analyst with the Independent Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and a former White House staffer, said a slow hotline had its good points.

"It's an advantage to have time to formulate a considered message so that it's precise and not open to misunderstanding," he said.

"You are dealing in a crisis with different languages and cultures and between potential enemies."

A story which has long gone the rounds in Washington about the first hotline transmission illustrates Mr. Hunter's point.

Washington sent: "Testing — the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog's back. 1234567890." The Kremlin was baffled. Back came a message asking why the fox was jumping over the dog and what it all meant.

Once it was explained it was merely a test of the keyboard, the Soviets retaliated on their printer — with a lyrical description of sunset in Moscow.

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Moscow denies U.S.-alleged Soviet role in KKK letters

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS condemned as an "unpardonable lie" Thursday a Washington suggestion that Moscow was behind death threats sent to Third World athletes planning to compete at the Los Angeles Olympics.

Without directly blaming Moscow, the State Department said Wednesday that letters purportedly from the racist Ku Klux Klan (KKK) bore all the hallmarks of a "disinformation campaign" — a term the United States uses to describe "covert Soviet attempts to deceive world opinion."

"Official Washington has put forward as state policy an unpardonable anti-Soviet lie," TASS said.

It described as "cynical" the U.S. suggestion that it was conducting the letter campaign. Threatening letters have been received by a number of African and Asian Olympic committees.

TASS said the White House was working with the KKK in an attempt to cover up its anti-Olympic activities with slander and lies against the Soviet Union.

U.S. State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said Wednesday officials had reached a preliminary opinion that one of the letters, sent to Zimbabwe purportedly by the KKK in Virginia, was not written by a native English speaker. It threatens death to black athletes.

Death threats against Olympic athletes have also surfaced in

China, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and South Korea.

The State Department gave reporters copies of the Zimbabwe letter, and Mr. Romberg noted that the name Ku Klux Klan in the letterhead with a hyphen between the first two words did not appear in standard English spelling.

He also said Klan material generally contained the full name of the particular unit, not simply "Ku Klux Klan."

The leaflet headed "The Olympics — for the Whites only" is addressed to "African Monkeys" and says that "in Los Angeles our own Olympic flames are ready to incinerate you."

The airmail envelope containing the leaflet was addressed to Zimbabwe's National Olympic Committee at a Harare box number and bore a Virginia postmark and two 20-cent U.S. stamps.

"The thrust of the leaflets, that a threat exists for Olympic athletes from U.S. extremists, dovetails neatly with the Soviet justification for their withdrawal (from the games)," Mr. Romberg said.

Japan ignores threat

In Tokyo, Japan's Olympic

Committee said Friday it would ignore a similar letter.

Committee Director Tetsuo Morimoto told Reuters the letter, headlined "Olympic games for humans, not apes," and carrying a drawing of a hooded Klansman on horseback holding a flaming torch, was posted in Maryland and dated June 25.

"We are ignoring this letter as it is supposed to be an action taken by only a handful of American people. If we make a fuss about it, we will play into their hands," he said.

The letter, reproduced Friday in several Japanese newspapers, said: "The blacks and yellows will not be permitted to defile America's stadiums... if your curs dare to come to the Summer Olympics in America, they will be shot or hanged."

Zamalek wins Egyptian league

CAIRO (R) — Zamalek secured the Egyptian League Soccer Championship Friday when they drew 2-2 with leading rivals Al Ahli on the final day.

Zamalek finished with 36 points, two ahead of Al Ahli. Ibrahim opened the scoring for Zamalek in the 12th minute but Al Ahli equalised through Gadallah in the 35th minute.

Kwarshi made it 2-1 for Zamalek in the 65th minute but Nasef levelled the scores five minutes later in front of 50,000 spectators.

Moore, Benitez desperate to clinch title eliminator

MONTE CARLO (R) — Former world junior middleweight boxing champion Davey Moore of the United States is desperate to win a title eliminator bout here Saturday against Wilfredo Benitez of Puerto Rico in a bid to regain his title.

Moore lost his World Boxing Association (WBA) title to Roberto Duran of Panama in June 1983.

But on Friday he said: "I'm ready to rumble in Monte Carlo. I know I'm going to win this fight because I've got to."

Duran was stripped of the title last month for failing to make a mandatory defence and the winner of the 10-round bout will emerge as an official challenger.

Victory for Moore or Benitez could also mean a tilt at the undisputed middleweight crown held by Marvin Hagler.

"It doesn't matter to me who I fight next as long as I get a title," said Moore, 25, who grew up in the Bronx district of New York and became world champion after just eight professional fights.

Victory Saturday is also crucial

for Benitez, 25, a former holder of three world titles, but now regarded by many in the boxing world as a fighter whose best days are behind him after a career spanning 49 bouts.

Brilliantly talented but inconsistent, Benitez has never fully recovered after losing his World Boxing Council (WBC) junior middleweight crown to Thomas Hearns in December 1982.

He has lost to Syria's Mustapha Hamso since then, but won his last fight against fellow-American Stacy McSwain in Detroit earlier this year.

Moore, whose weakness in defence was exposed by Duran last year, grudgingly acknowledges Benitez's skills: "You've got to respect a man who's won three titles," he said.

In a supporting bout, Argentine Juan Domingo Roldan — known as "the Hammer" — will also be trying to salvage a reputation when he meets Andre Mongelema of France over 10 rounds. It will be his first fight since he was crushed by Hagler last March.

Algeria leads African athletics

RABAT (R) — Kenyan Kipsibai Koskei won the 10,000 metres at the African Athletic Championships which started here Thursday.

Koskei, the leader for most of the race, clocked 28 minutes 11.07 seconds and Olympic marathon Medal prospect Ahmad Salem of Djibouti was second in 28:17.04. Tunisia's Mohamed Ali

Chouri took the bronze far behind.

The first gold medal went to Mariane Mendoza of Senegal, who took the women's long jump with 5.93 metres. Besma Gharbi from Tunisia was second and Dalila Tayebi of Algeria third.

In the women's javelin, Tenim Camara of Ivory Coast won with 45.48 metres, followed by Moroccan Samira Ben Hamza and Naima Fouad.

As expected, African record holder Hakim Toumi of Algeria collected gold in the hammer with 68.64.

Thirty one nations have entered the championships.

Senegal's Charles Louis Seck kept the Nigerians in check in the semifinals of the men's 100 metres when he clocked 10.40, against 10.57 for Iziq Adeyahu, 10.60 to Chidi Imoh and 10.64 for Ikpo Eseme.

Los Angeles getting overcrowded

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — A favourite car sticker in Los Angeles reads: "Welcome to California. Now go home."

It is not that Los Angeles, about to welcome thousands of visitors to the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, is an unfriendly city. It is just that, in the words of a Los Angeles resident, "paradise is getting overcrowded."

Ten million people live in greater Los Angeles, many of them drawn in recent years by California's high technology industries. Outside the city limits the main recreational attractions are the waters of the Pacific Ocean and the ski slopes in the surrounding mountains.

But Los Angeles itself has plenty to offer Olympic visitors when they are not watching sporting events.

For a start, they can watch the smog. A reddish-brown ball of dirty air hangs over the city like a suspended doughnut for much of the summer, making eyes water and, on bad days, causing a burning sensation in the throat.

The smog is fuelled by fumes from the countless cars and factories in a city hemmed in by mountains on three sides.

Visitors can also watch students drop from buildings at the Universal Studios amusement centre and see Howard Hughes' giant flying boat Spruce Goose and the former British liner Queen Mary at Long Beach. Disneyland is not far away.

Then there is film-star watching. Street vendors sell maps, often out of date, showing where film stars live and even where they are buried.

Fashionable restaurants, such as the Polo Lounge, Ma Maison, Le Dome and Chasen's, have their regular lunchtime gathering of stars.

Ma Maison, the favourite of actors Michael Caine and Orson Welles, tells its car park attendants to line the front of the restaurant with customers' Rolls Royces. They usually succeed.

For people wishing to eat ethnic food, Los Angeles has a Chinatown, a little Tokyo and a Koreatown. There is also a large Mexican community.

But if a visitor wants to eat a full dinner after 9 p.m. he will have a search on his hands. Although most restaurants have licences allowing them to sell drinks until 1 a.m., they usually begin closing at 10 p.m.

From then on the bill of fare is what the United States does well — "fast food" like hamburgers,

pizzas and ham and chips. The most fashionable shopping street is Rodeo Drive. One of its clothing shops, Bijan, takes exclusivity to the extreme by allowing customers in only by appointment. One of its fashion "extras" is a small, gold-plated revolver.

Parts of the city centre are considered dangerous to walk in at night. Police also expect an influx of prostitutes, mainly on Sunset Strip, the night life centre, during the games.

Some residents are preparing to leave town during the Olympics to avoid the giant traffic jams that are expected to snarl up the city.

The greater Los Angeles area has 3.7 million cars and 1.1 million other vehicles, sharing 490 miles (780 km) of freeways. Hire car companies are sending in thousands more vehicles for the games.

Many of those leaving hope to rent their homes for up to \$3,000 a day, complete with maid service and cars, but they are finding few takers, according to estate agent Alex North. "Business has been slow, very slow," he said.

There are also the Olympic Games to watch. One comedian says local people will be easy to spot during the 100 metres race. They will be the ones leaving after 90 metres have been run for an early start home.

Shock defeat for Lendl in Davis Cup comeback

HRADEC KRALOVE, Czechoslovakia (R) — French Open champion Ivan Lendl crashed to a surprise defeat at the hands of France's Henri Leconte on his return to the Czechoslovak Davis Cup tennis team here Friday.

Lendl, who lost a gruelling semifinal against American Jimmy Connors at Wimbledon last week, was beaten 6-3, 6-6, 6-4 as France took a 1-0 lead in the world group quarter-final tie.

He had been left out of the previous two ties with the Soviet Union and Denmark while under suspension for playing in an invitation tournament in Sun City in

one of South Africa's black homelands last year.

While Czechoslovakia were at full strength again France were without their top player Yannick Noah who is still troubled by the groin strain which forced him to miss Wimbledon.

Lendl had warned the match could be a tougher than his fans expected. "Leconte is unpredictable and is capable of defeating anyone on his good days. I have lost twice to him before," Lendl said.

Lendl served 12 aces but failed to muster the strength needed to crush Leconte, who defied a slight shoulder injury. The Frenchman, who served only three aces himself, broke Lendl's serve five times and chased to good effect.

UEFA to discuss Strachan transfer

BERNE (R) — A decision on the disputed future of Scottish international soccer star Gordon Strachan will be made by a special European Football Union (UEFA) committee next week.

A UEFA official told Reuters that a committee meeting due to be held later this month to discuss the dispute over Strachan's transfer from Aberdeen to either England's Manchester United or Cologne of West Germany has been brought forward to Monday — as a matter of urgency.

The dispute began when Manchester United said they had signed Strachan for £500,000 (\$ 655,000) from his Scottish Premier Division club Aberdeen.

Cologne said they had an earlier letter of intent from Strachan saying he would sign for them.

Swale had bad heart, reports say

NEW YORK (R) — Swale, winner of this year's Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes horse races, may have died of heart failure, according to pathologists' findings. The colt collapsed and died after a workout last month.

A final report on the laboratory probe into Swale's death issued by the New Bolton Centre of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Science said an area of fibrosis on the three-year-old's heart had been discovered.

The centre's spokeswoman said foul play had been effectively ruled out since toxicology had revealed no poison in the horse's system.

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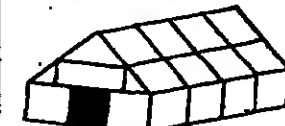
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Banks to lend Hungary \$487 million

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Thursday it would lend the National Bank of Hungary \$47.4 million. It said it would provide \$35 million as part of a \$385 million Eurodollar syndicated loan to the Hungarian bank and \$12.4 million in a Japanese yen loan to the bank valued at \$102 million. The Eurodollar loan, to be used to help expand and modernise Hungary's export industries, will be co-ordinated by the Arab Banking Corporation, IBI International Limited, Manufacturers Hanover Limited and Standard Chartered Bank. The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd and the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd will act as agent banks for the Japanese yen loan to be used to develop Hungary's petroleum resources. Earlier this year, the World Bank approved \$200 million in loans to Hungary.

Norway discovers major gas field

OSLO (R) — The Norwegian state-owned oil company Statoil has discovered a major gas field in the Arctic circle but massive government aid would be necessary if it were to be developed, a company spokesman said. The find, in the Tromsøflaket field, could produce almost as much gas as any in the North Sea, the spokesman told Reuters. But the gas will be difficult to extract. The field lies in 250 metres of water, twice as deep as any North Sea fields currently in production, and transporting the gas to a terminal would be a considerable problem, he added. Oil industry sources told Reuters that political pressure from northern Norway could force the government to concede tax advantages to developers or to provide state aid for pipelines and other projects connected with development of the field. Even with state aid the gas field would not start producing before 1996, the Statoil spokesman said.

British insurance groups agree to merge

LONDON (R) — Two of Britain's biggest insurance groups, Sun Alliance and Phoenix Assurance, have agreed to merge in a deal worth nearly £400 million (\$520 million). Earlier, the big U.S. insurer Continental Corporation said in New York that it had sold its 24 per cent holding in Phoenix to Sun Alliance. The deal involves Sun Alliance making a recommended offer for all the remaining Phoenix shares, said N.M. Rothschild and Sons, financial adviser to Sun Alliance. Sun Alliance, itself the result of two mergers, is strong in the property and marine fields, while Phoenix has an important motor account and valuable aviation business. The Phoenix directors said they considered Sun Alliance's cash bid of £6.5 (\$8.5) a share for Phoenix as fair and reasonable and recommended shareholders to accept. Rothschild said that the Phoenix name would continue as a member of the Sun Alliance group.

U.S. predicts rise in world grain output

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Total world grain production for the 1984-85 crop year is forecast at a record 1,598 million tonnes — up eight per cent from last year's depressed level. However, wheat output of major exporters, as a group, will likely be down substantially from 1983-84, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported. "Dry weather is affecting Australian and Canadian wheat crops, offsetting increases in Eastern Europe, Mexico and the Soviet Union. Wheat quality problems in the Soviet Union are likely, the department said. The 1984 winter wheat harvest in the United States is forecast at 55 million tonnes, two per cent more than 1983's production. The department also projected that in the 1984-85 crop year, global coarse grain output will reach a record 794 million tonnes, global milled rice production will rise to a record 308 million tonnes, one per cent above last year's level and that oilseed production will reach a record 185.3 million tonnes — 13 per cent above 1983-84 production. World cotton production will climb to a record 73.9 million bales, ten per cent above last year's output, the department added.

Mondale shifts economic stand

WASHINGTON (R) — Mr. Walter Mondale, the likely candidate to face President Reagan in the U.S. presidential race in November, has shifted his economic stand away from his earlier liberal big-spending plans.

As Mr. Mondale enters the Democratic convention next week virtually assured of the party's nomination, he is now seeking slower defence spending, a more broadly-based tax system to raise revenues, higher corporation taxes and firm control of health care costs.

With Mr. Reagan citing a cut in inflation from over 12 per cent to just under three per cent during his term and interest rates down from over 21 per cent to about 13 per cent, Mr. Mondale is focusing his attacks on Mr. Reagan's huge federal budget deficits and their implication for the future of the U.S. economy.

The economic platform for the Democratic convention in San Francisco on Monday is peppered with references to the deficit. Blaming deficits for keeping U.S. interest rates high, the platform states: "At the end of his second term, Reagan by himself will have put this country three times deeper in debt than all our other presidents combined."

The platform, heavily influenced by the Mondale team, nonetheless reflects some of the main concerns of his chief rival for the nomination, Mr. Gary Hart.

Mr. Hart's campaign themes, espousing more conservative economics than Mr. Mondale's initial liberal line, apparently blunted some of the ex-vice president's plans to secure the support of org-

anised labour.

Mr. Mondale's promise to back a domestic content law, ensuring that cars sold in the United States are built here, has disappeared from the platform. The issue had sparked a row between Mr. Hart and Mr. Mondale during the primary campaign earlier this year. Gone too are Mr. Mondale's plans to match "dollar-for-dollar" the subsidies of America's trading partners.

Instead, the document calls for a blend of free market forces with government intervention, vows to protect the interest of the U.S. worker and promises to retaliate against unfair trade practices. Also watered down is the once radical Democratic proposal for an industrial strategy.

Mr. Mondale would establish a national economic co-operation council to improve relations between management, labour and government and identify new areas for industrial growth.

But the idea of an industrial development bank to promote new industries and ease the decline of ailing ones has been scrapped. Last year, it was the centrepiece of Mr. Mondale's industrial development strategy.

The Democratic platform proposes international talks to improve the global monetary system, develop a solution to the debt crisis involving burden-sharing among richer nations and boost

the lending capacity of the World Bank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

"The social and political stability of these developing countries is seriously challenged by the debt crisis," the document says.

Mr. Reagan has long opposed similar calls by Latin Americans and Europeans, and has advocated instead separate agreements between bankers and debtor states.

Steel issue poses dilemma

Meanwhile, the U.S. International Trade Commission Wednesday urged President Reagan to clamp quotas and tariffs on all steel imports to protect the domestic industry from foreign competition.

The government commission's 3-2 vote is not binding on Mr. Reagan. But he must decide by Sept. 24 whether to take action on the recommendations, which would hit top steel exporters such as Western Europe, Japan, South Korea and Canada.

It left Mr. Reagan in an election year dilemma — granting relief to the industry and restoring jobs to steelworkers would be politically popular at home but it would cause a row with major U.S. trading partners.

The commission, which over-

sees U.S. trade laws, called for the quotas after intense pressure from American steel firms, which have lost \$6 billion in the past two years and shed 200,000 workers.

Bethlehem Corporation, America's second biggest steel firm, said imports had grabbed a record 25 per cent of the U.S. market. The industry had also complained of a sharp rise in steel exports from developing countries.

Petitions for a clampdown by Bethlehem and the United Steelworkers of America, the industry's labour union, drew criticism from the European Community which said it violated a 1982 agreement limiting steel exports to the United States.

One member of the commission, Mr. Alfred Eckes, said Wednesday's recommendations would cause "only a minimum disruption" to that agreement and help the domestic industry become more competitive.

The commission said curbs on steel imports should be enforced for five years.

Quotas on sheet or strip steel, which account for more than half of U.S. imports, would range from six per cent of consumption for some products to 21 per cent for others in the first three years, followed by more liberal levels.

Tariffs on wire products would be raised by 12 per cent at first, dropping to 10 per cent later.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed but above its lows, lifted by buying for the new account which starts on Monday. Wall Street's firmer opening and the rise in sterling, dealers said. At 1530 the F.T.-S.E. 100 index was up 1.2 at 992.6 having slipped to 987.9 at 1400.

Shares opened firmer after Thursday's rally but turned lower because of worries over industrial unrest and interest rates. Late rumours of a possible settlement to the dock workers' strike helped lift prices off their worst levels.

Government bonds closed at their highs with gains of up ½ point on the firmer sterling and U.S. credit markets.

Government bond dealers noted the 11 ½ per cent treasury 2001/04 taplet was exhausted at £102¼ compared to its issue price of £102¼. Little interest was noted in the 10¼ per cent exchequer 1995 taplet which was issued at 87½.

Among equity leaders, Thorn EMI closed 16p lower at 464 after a low of 449 on Thursday's figures and news of its Immos stake. ICI firmed 2p to 538 and Vickers 4p to 160 but Hawker closed 10p down at 597 and Beecham eased 2p to 288. North American shares were mixed and golds higher in line with bullion.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.3145/55	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.3306/09	Canadian dollars	
	2.8430/40	West German marks	
	3.2080/90	Dutch guilders	
	2.4053/63	Swiss francs	
	57.64/67	Belgian francs	
	8.7200/50	French francs	
	1746.50/1747.50	Italian lire	
	242.15/25	Japanese yen	
	8.2925/75	Swedish crowns	
	8.1850/1900	Norwegian crowns	
	10.3900/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	341.90/342.40	U.S. dollars	

OPEC may hold talks in October

VIENNA (Agencies) — Kuwait's oil and finance minister predicted Thursday that OPEC's overall output would increase to meet extra demand later this year and ministers would probably hold special talks to share out the extra production.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah told reporters an extraordinary ministerial meeting of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) would probably be held in October.

He said the current glut on world markets was drying up, and demand was recovering enough for OPEC to raise its output ceiling by at least one million barrels per day (b/d) in the last quarter of 1984.

The minister, who played a major role in moulding the group's existing agreement on production and pricing last year, ruled out any price changes in the foreseeable future.

A price increase "is not on the cards", he said.

Noting that several members had recently been cheating and producing over quota, the Kuwaiti minister said OPEC's immediate priority was to cut back output to its agreed ceiling. Senior delegations would visit member na-

tions to help police the accord, he said.

OPEC production rose to 18.5 million b/d in June, as markets over-reacted to the escalation in the Gulf crisis, he said.

Subsequent easing of fears over Gulf oil supplies and a slide in free market prices resulted in OPEC curbing output to around 17.7 million b/d now, he added.

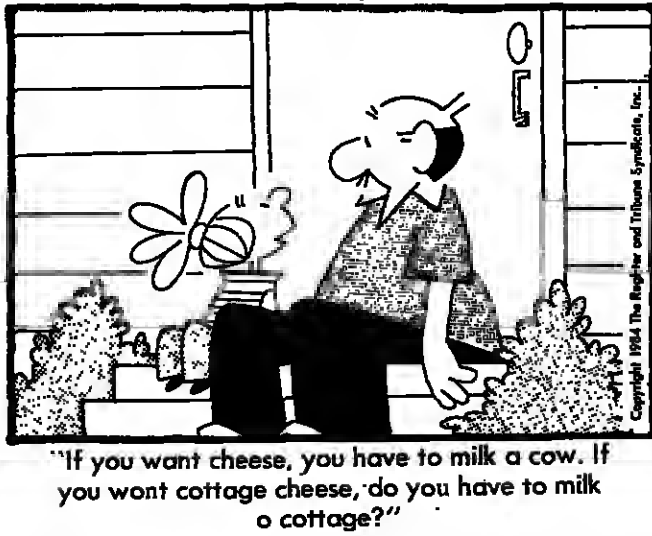
He did not foresee any permanent damage to demand for oil produced by the Gulf states following the widening of attacks on merchant ships in the waterway as a result of the Iran-Iraq war.

After a brief drop in output, the Gulf states had acted rapidly and effectively to keep shipments moving, he said.

This had probably laid to rest fears over the long term security of oil supplies from the Gulf, he said.

About one-sixth of the non-communist world's supplies pass through the Gulf. Earlier, Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said after the conference that OPEC's key market monitoring committee would meet again in Vienna on Sept. 26, and this could be followed by an extraordinary ministerial conference.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOJYL

GLIYN

MANALY

SYMFIL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NUTTY SAUTE JACKAL ORATOR
Answer: What they told at the foot doctors' annual whistling "CORN" JOKES

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



OECD inflation eases

PARIS (R) — Inflation eased in May and price trends between economic sectors varied little, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said Thursday. Consumer prices in the 24-nation bloc were an average 5.4 per cent higher than in May a year ago, compared with a 5.7 per cent rise in the year to April and 5.3 per cent in the year to December 1983. Retail food prices generally stabilised to rise broadly in line with other sectors, including energy. In North America, food prices fell slightly. In May OECD prices rose 0.4 per cent, after a 0.6 per cent rise in April. Inflation declined in May in all seven major Western economies and most other OECD members shared the trend, the OECD's figures showed. Price rises eased notably by 0.4 percentage point in both Japan and West Germany, which already had the slowest inflation among the seven major economies. Japanese prices rose two per cent in the year to May while those in West Germany were 2.8 per cent higher. Iceland lost to Turkey its position as the OECD member with the highest inflation.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite early delays in putting your original ideas across, you find you have the ability to achieve much of value until the late afternoon, so do your best work then. Avoid disputes later.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You fail to understand the views of a friend early in the day, but don't lose control and tonight it is clear to you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your reputation may be assailed if you do not view matters from a new standpoint within the community in which you reside.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your obligations and know which partner is best able to help you with your problems, and contact early.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) An outside partner can pose a problem but a co-worker comes to your aid, and all works out well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Look to some attractive person to assist you with some public work you are doing and get good results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Whatever amusements you want to get into, could prove disappointing, but a family tie gives you an idea that is much to your liking. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The situation at home is not ideal but if you contact an expert, you can remedy it considerably. Don't lose your hard-earned assets.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you study new ideas you can advance more rapidly in your career. Don't waste too much time in long, unimportant conversations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Not a good day to get into the practical side since others can be greedy and you could lose much.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to understand why you have not gotten ahead faster and get rid of whatever has been deterring your progress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Concentrate on how to get ahead faster in the future and forget all that gadding about for today. Be with one who makes you laugh.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have a private anxiety that is becoming an obsession with you, so forget it, and be more hopeful for the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be worried all the time about something if you do not early have serene and cheerful persons around who can show your progeny the importance of being modern and sure of self instead of delving into antiquated ideas and superstitions.

THE Daily Crossword by John Greenman

ACROSS

1 Chipper

5 Mutad hua

9 Whaat

14 Shred

15 Piggy-bank

16 Fibar for baskets

17 Rows

18 Faction

19 Zola

20 Road hazard

21 — to (revised)

22 Advantage

23 Fireworks

27 Plurat

28 Huzza for a forehead

29 Andrea — Sarto

32 Lunar-solar calendar

35 Taxi tee

37 Use an awl

38 Fireworks

41 Comic

42 Make better or job

43 Goddess: Lat.

45 Sty

46 Try for office

47 Fireworks

53 Strong

57 Orient

58 Kindled

59 Gathering place in Athens

60 Job

61 Friday to Crusoe

62 Cumulus, a.g.

63 Raise a bet

64 After mob or job

65 Fr. heads

66 Soviet

67 Jeroma of music

DOWN

1 Impassive

2 Tart fruit

3 Street show

4 '83 and '84

5 Lamb products

8 Ascend gradually

7 Wild West

8 Neb. tribe

9 Fold

10 Poor actors

11 "Lucky Jim"

12 Do clerical work

13ambi

21 Gr. Isla

24 Nouveau —

25 Edible mushroom

26 Blustered

28 Go-getter

30 Author of tales

31 Minus

32 Organism modified by environment

33 Reduce gradually

34 "— boy!"

35 Demon

36 Literary collection

37 Existing

39 Flightless bird

40 Visit often

45 Implores

46 Gambler

48 Gives birth to sheep

49 Abstains from food

50 The 400

51 Commuter

52 Ship's rear

53 Not fiction

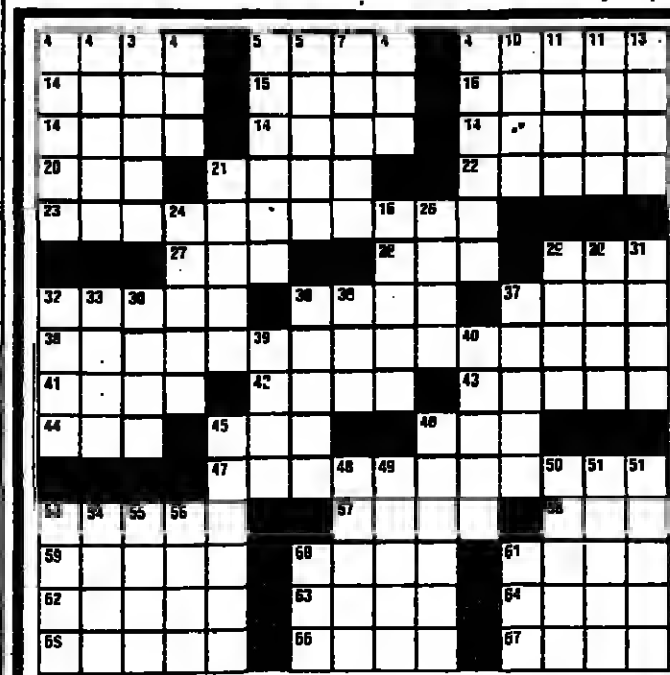
54 Gawk

55 Parsnip, a.g.

56 Accurate

60 Plato's "T"

61 Query



China said to have repulsed attacking Vietnamese division

PEKING (R) — China's army newspaper Friday spoke of a fight to the finish with Vietnam as Peking reported its forces had repulsed an attack by a Vietnamese division along their southern border.

The Liberation Army Daily said China wanted peace, but if Vietnam provoked incidents along the border "we can do nothing but hit them back in self-defence and fight to the finish."

The comments of the paper, which is not available to foreigners, were distributed by the official New China News Agency (NCNA).

The paper called Vietnam's reported latest attack "a new ferocious step in its wrong road against China."

Peking said Thursday night that frontier guards repulsed the Vietnamese division in the Laoshan area of China's Yunnan province.

The agency said fierce fighting was still going on Thursday evening. It has not given fresh details of the battle.

The army daily said the Vietnamese had suffered heavy casualties.

It added that Hanoi said China is the biggest obstacle to its aim of dominating the region.

The daily urged frontier guards to defend every inch of Chinese territory and hit back hard at any Vietnamese attack.

Western diplomats said the reported Vietnamese incursion appeared to be an attempt to recapture strategic high ground the Chinese took from them at the end

of April. According to Chinese accounts, Chinese forces also beat back a series of attacks in the area last month.

Fighting along the rugged, ill-defined Sino-Vietnamese border flared at the beginning of April, with both sides accusing each other of intruding across the frontier and mounting artillery barrages against frontier villages.

There has been a lull over the past few weeks. The NCNA report said the Vietnamese had been preparing the latest attack for the past month.

There was no immediate word Friday if the fighting was continuing.

The diplomats said most of the artillery exchanges and sporadic clashes over the past three and a half months were aimed at securing key high ground along the disputed frontier.

They said China had also used the clashes to put pressure on Vietnam, which is locked into a five-year-old struggle with Peking-backed resistance forces in Kampuchea.

The Sino-Vietnamese frontier has been tense since 1979 when the two sides fought a brief border war after Vietnam sent troops into Kampuchea to oust the Chinese-supported Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh and install the Heng Samrin government.

In a commentary issued Friday by NCNA, China expressed delight about the rejection of talks with Hanoi on Indochina by the non-Communist Association of South East Nations (ASEAN).

It said the call by the ASEAN states meeting in Jakarta for a complete Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea was a just stand and the Vietnamese position was untenable.

Javier Perez de Cuellar

U.N. chief meets Chernenko

MOSCOW (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived here two days ago for talks on Afghanistan, met Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko Friday, TASS News Agency reported.

The brief report by the official Soviet News Agency said only that the two men had met, giving no details of their discussions.

So far little information has been released about the substance of the U.N. chief's talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Thursday.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said before leaving Geneva he intended to push his efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the continuing war in Afghanistan but he added he was a guest of the Soviet government and it was up to Moscow to set the agenda.

He is accompanied by his special representative on the Afghan situation, Mr. Diego Cordovez.

Pro-Moscow Afghan President Babrak Karmal flew here from Kabul two days before Mr. Perez de Cuellar arrived, but the Afghan embassy declined comment on whether the two visits were linked.

TASS said Mr. Perez de Cuellar and Mr. Gromyko discussed a wide range of world topics.

The United Nations Information Office in Moscow has referred all queries concerning Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Nine die in U.S. military plane crash

CATANIA, Sicily — A U.S. Air Force cargo plane crashed just after take-off from a NATO air base near Catania Thursday killing the eight crew and one passenger aboard.

A U.S. military spokesman said there were no known survivors from the crash which came just after the C-141 Starlifter left the Sigonella Base.

The spokesman at the base said no casualties had been reported among people on the ground when the aircraft plunged into farmland. The plane had refuelled at Sig-

onella after arriving from Torreon in Spain, the U.S. spokesman said. It was bound for the British Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, site of a British-U.S. military base.

Italian police said earlier that 17 people — nine crew and eight passengers — were aboard the big four-engine craft.

Italian Air Force sources said the pilot radioed that one of his engines was on fire and had tried to turn back. The manoeuvre failed and the plane crashed into farmland.

Voters to choose new Bangladeshi Parliament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh voters will choose a 300-member parliament in December, just over five months after the polls were originally scheduled.

But Chief Election Commissioner A.K.M. Nurul Islam did not say when presidential elections would be held when he announced the parliamentary poll for Dec. 8.

The announcement came two days after a 15-party opposition alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wazed threatened to observe a "resistance week" this month, with the aim of forcing the government to accept demands for an end to military rule.

Parliamentary and presidential polls were to have been held on May 27. They were postponed by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad after politicians said martial law should first be ended and demanded that Gen. Ershad or his ministers not take part.

There was no immediate comment on Thursday's announcement from most political groups. But the Democratic League, led by former President Khandker Mostaque Ahmad, said the news did little to move the country towards democracy.

The 15-party alliance and another seven-party grouping headed by Begum Khaleda Zia have also criticised Gen. Ershad for "doing politics in uniform."

Gen. Ershad scored a major victory earlier this week when two prominent figures defected to Janadad from Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Gen. Ershad immediately enlisted Korban Ali of the Awami League and Yusuf Ali of the BNP into his cabinet. It now has 12 Janadad members.

Gen. Ershad retires as army chief of staff in November and is expected to join the Janadad Party.

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102 miners die in Taiwans' second disaster

TAIPEI (R) — Rescue workers Thursday recovered the bodies of the last of 124 miners trapped deep underground after a fire that killed 102 men in Taiwan's second mine disaster in less than a month.

Officials said most of the 22 survivors were still unconscious from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Rescue work in the Mayshan pit at the Juihsiang Mine, 50 kilometres north east of Taipei, was completed as President Chiang

Ching-Kuo ordered a thorough review of Taiwan's mine policy and whether the island needed to produce its own coal.

Taiwan has now lost 176 miners in three weeks. The latest disaster was caused by a pit fire on Tuesday.

Government officials said Mr. Chiang's order was discussed at Thursday's weekly cabinet meeting, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs had been instructed to make a thorough survey of mine policy.

All 125 mines on the island meanwhile closed Thursday on government orders pending safety checks.

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U.S. official says nuclear force reduction possible

WASHINGTON (R) — A top Pentagon official told a congressional committee Thursday the United States and the Soviet Union could vastly reduce their nuclear forces and still have an adequate deterrent.

Richard Wagner, assistant to Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger for atomic policy, told the Joint Economic Committee he agreed a nuclear war could cause a "nuclear winter", which leading scientists predict could mean extinction of mankind.

Asked how low nuclear forces could go and still be a credible deterrent, Mr. Wagner said if roughly comparable reductions were made by both super-powers and focused on eliminating destabilising weapons the forces could be "much, much lower by a factor of three, four, five than what we have today."

"Wagner said the Reagan administration believed the nuclear winter theory must be taken very seriously and added that government studies were under way to determine its potential effects.

Mr. Wagner said that he thought a nuclear winter would follow from even "small nuclear exchanges".

Senator William Proxmire, the Wisconsin Democrat who chaired the hearing, criticised the government for failing to consider the potential effects of nuclear war sooner.

Mr. Wagner agreed, and added that the Defence and Energy Departments expanded their research several months ago to include all aspects of the effects of nuclear war on the world's climate.

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Anglo-Nigerian ties at low ebb after expulsions

LONDON (R) — Relations between Britain and Nigeria were at a low ebb Friday after both countries ordered the expulsions of two of the other's diplomats.

Britain said Thursday that two Nigerian diplomats should leave the country after police were not allowed to question them about the bungled kidnapping of politician Umaru Dikko.

The government also said that Nigeria's top diplomatic representative, Maj. Gen. Haidu Hamaniya, who flew to Lagos two days ago, would not be welcome to return to Britain.

The Nigerian government, which denies any involvement in the kidnapping, responded late Thursday night by announcing a tit-for-tat expulsion of two British envoys.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said members of the Nigerian High Commission in London appeared to be implicated in the abduction of Mr. Dikko, a former transport minister wanted in Nigeria on charges of theft and corruption.

Mr. Dikko was found drugged last week at Stansted Airport in a crate addressed to the External Affairs Ministry in Lagos. He was about to be loaded aboard a Nigerian freight plane.

Britain is expelling Peter Oyedele, a counsellor, and Okon Edet, an attaché. Police sources said Mr. Edet was briefly questioned at Stansted Airport the day Mr. Dikko was discovered in the crate.

Nigeria has ordered out John Harrison, head of chancery, and Stewart Evans, administrative attaché at the embassy.

In a statement early Friday, Sir Geoffrey said the expulsions of the Britons were totally unjustified. "They have not been implicated in any illegal acts in Nigeria."

The Dikko affair has reduced relations between Britain and Nigeria to their lowest ebb for several years.

But diplomatic analysts in London and Lagos said it was clear that the importance of trade and Commonwealth ties between the two countries made both unwilling to see relations deteriorate any further.

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South African bomb blast kills 4, injures 21

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — A powerful bomb explosion killed four people, all black, and injured 21 in a Durban industrial suburb Thursday, police said.

The blast, the latest in a series of explosions to hit Durban and other South African cities in recent months, went off at about 4.30 p.m. Police said they thought it had been caused by a car bomb.

The explosion caused extensive damage to buildings and cars in the area and left a huge pall of black smoke.

There was no immediate indication of who was responsible but the banned African National Congress (ANC) has claimed responsibility for many of the urban sabotage attacks seen here in recent years.

Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange told parliament the

blast was identical to other ANC attacks in the area.

The blast was immediately condemned by the official opposition Progressive Federal Party.

A police spokesman said 11 of the injured were black and the rest white. All were taken to hospital but only one was seriously injured.

Most of the bombs planted have been aimed at government targets, but others, like Thursday's blast and a car bomb that killed 20 people in Pretoria 14 months ago, have caused loss of life.

Some political analysts believe recent attacks by the ANC, the main black guerrilla group fighting white rule in South Africa, have been a show of strength following Pretoria's success in persuading neighbouring black states not to harbour ANC members.

New Zealand premier may lose elections

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's political parties wound up election campaigning Friday with Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon admitting that the opposition Labour Party might end his nine years in power.

But Sir Robert, whose National Party is trailing badly in opinion polls, said that if he lost narrowly in Saturday's vote he would be back in power at the next election.

"If I were to lose by one seat I would be Prime Minister in 1987 or at whatever time something happened to turn them out," he said in a television interview.

The blunt-spoken Sir Robert, who holds the finance portfolio himself, appealed again to the country's two million voters to trust his handling of the economy, a main issue in the three-week

campaign.

"I know the New Zealand economy better than any other living soul in or out of the state services, in or out of politics, parliament, or anywhere else," he told a packed election rally in Auckland Thursday night.

But the National Party, attacked by Labour on unemployment, prices and New Zealand's heavy overseas debt, was dealt a further blow with the release of figures detailing further heavy government borrowing.

According to the Reserve Bank figures, the government borrowed more than \$500 million New Zealand dollars (\$300 million) to prop up the local currency following last month's snap election that after it lost its one-seat parliamentary majority.

Mitterrand moves to defuse political tension

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand, his Socialist government hard-pressed in a series of bitter controversies, has moved to ease tensions by withdrawing a hotly-contested education bill.

At the same time he announced plans for a law allowing more frequent referenda on issues such as the education reforms, which he said affected essential liberties.

Speaking Thursday night in a broadcast carried on all state radio and television services, Mr. Mitterrand appealed for national unity, urging the French people not to be "dragged into excessive divisions."

The education bill, which proposed increased state control over private schools, was suffering a rough passage through parliament while on the streets an estimated one million people took part in a recent demonstration against it.

The president's unexpected intervention — he promised a new education bill at some future date — brought a cautious reaction from the biggest opposition party, the Gaullists.

Gaullist Secretary General Bernard Pons, whose party has been demanding withdrawal of the education bill for some time, said the president's action smacked of political manoeuvre.

Mr. Mitterrand returned on Wednesday from a visit to Jordan to find his government locked in ever more bitter dispute with the opposition over the schools bill and another bill intended to curb newspaper monopolies.

On Tuesday it survived a censure motion over the press bill, which opposition deputies have also declared their intention to delay by filibuster.

Charging that both bills represented an attack on basic freedoms, opposition leaders said the governing Socialist and Communist Parties had no mandate to enact them after their poor showing in last month's European Parliament elections.

Had he refused to resign there would almost certainly have been trouble from two government parties, the Christian Democrats and the Republicans, which have strongly backed the commission report drafted by Christian Democrat Tina Anselmi.

Mr. Craxi, a Socialist, has already come under fire for backing Mr. Longo in the past and could have seen his government disintegrating had he done so again, political sources said.

They said now that Mr. Longo had resigned, a summit meeting between leaders of the ruling parties could go ahead and the government looked set fair for the summer.

The sources said a simple replacement of Mr. Longo looked more likely than a general cabinet reshuffle. The new minister should be a Social Democrat, to preserve the party balance.

His alleged membership included politicians, bankers and generals, was a secret society aimed at surreptitious control over the life of the nation.

A statement issued by Mr. Craxi's office said Mr. Longo maintained his innocence but was resigning to avoid the affair being exploited to undermine the five-party coalition government.

Mr. Longo himself told reporters: "I have done what I had to do in the face of a situation which otherwise could have gone to pieces with very serious risks for our institutions."

Mr. Longo, 48, is leader of the Social Democratic Party, one of the smallest in the government alliance.

He has been lampooned as "the P-2 minister" in a wall poster campaign by the opposition Communist Party, which has demanded his resignation.

When he tried to enter the courtyard, a police officer stepped forward to block the gate and said: "You cannot enter Mr. Walesa. Please go away."

Mr. Walesa at first refused and threatened to camp on the pavement till he was allowed to attend the trial, then changed his mind and left.

A senior Solidarity source said Mr. Walesa had also left Warsaw to rejoin his family on holiday.

The four accused were driven to the court room from the nearby Rakowicka Prison in a police convoy and were hustled into the building through a back entrance.

Mr. Walesa indicated this week that he might try to attend the trial, one of the most important since the Solidarity crisis, when he told the American ABC television network:

"As far as I know, they are accused of activities which I chaired. For the whole of the trial, ac-

Italian minister resigns over P-2 scandal

ROME (R) — Budget Minister Pietro Longo has resigned over allegations of his involvement in Italy's P-2 Masonic lodge scandal, in a move seen as likely to ensure the survival of the government for the time being.

Mr. Longo, who denies being a member of the P-2, submitted his resignation Thursday to Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and told journalists afterwards that the premier would assume his portfolio until a replacement could be found.

On Tuesday, a parliamentary commission ended a three-year enquiry into the P-2 by approving on a majority vote a report which said that a published list of members of the lodge was authentic and credible.

Mr. Longo's name was on the list, found in the villa of the fugitive master of the lodge, Licio Gelli.

The report found that the P-2, whose alleged membership included politicians, bankers and generals, was a secret society aimed at surreptitious control over the life of the nation.

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Solidarity leader barred from KOR trial

WARSAW (R) — Police barred Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa Friday from the start of the trial of four dissident intellectual advisers to the banned free trade union who are accused of trying to overthrow Communist rule.

There was a brief confrontation in front of Warsaw's military court before Mr. Walesa climbed back into his car and drove off with Solidarity officials.

The incident was watched by Western journalists and about 100 Solidarity supporters who were also refused admittance to the trial of KOR dissident group leaders Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Henryk Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszewski.

The area round the court in a tree-lined street in central Warsaw was thick with police when Mr. Walesa, who broke a holiday in northern Poland to attend, drove up with former Solidarity official Andrzej Celinski.

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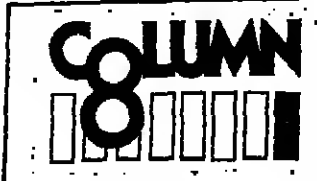
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930 South Korean officials sacked

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean government said Thursday it sacked 930 employees last year for bribery, negligence of duty or other corruption. Another 5,361 officials were punished for the same offences.

There are 5 cars per family in Jeddah

JEDDAH (R) — There are nearly five cars to a family in Saudi Arabia's opulent commercial capital of Jeddah, the highest to a study published here. The Al Nadwa newspaper quoted the traffic study by the Science Faculty of King Abdulaziz University as saying there were 982,000 cars registered in the city, an average of 4.8 per family.

Asian flat noses blamed on salt

TAIPEI (R) — Chinese and other Asians have flat noses because they eat too much salt, a Taiwanese professor said Thursday. Dr. Li Chin-Feng of Taiwan's Food Industries Development Laboratory, told reporters his research showed that excessive salt consumption affected growth and development of bone and cartilage, resulting in a low bridge to the nose.

Smashed eggs cost China \$50 million

PEKING (R) — Poor packaging cost China \$50 million in smashed eggs last year and 20 per cent of all glass transported was broken, the China Daily reported Thursday. The newspaper said five million tonnes of cement — out of an output of 100 million tonnes — was also lost because of damage. About 20 per cent of fruit transported was bruised or rotted. Inadequate packaging was losing the country five billion dollars a year or more, the paper said.

Boy crushed under taxi wheels

LONDON (R) — A three-year-old Saudi boy fell out of a London taxi and was crushed by its rear wheels after playing with the doorhandle, police said Thursday. Khalid, son of Saudi Travel Agent Abdullah Al Najdi whose family was visiting Britain, was sitting on his sister's lap in the rear of the car when the accident occurred. "The child was obviously fiddling with the door. It swung open and he fell out," a police spokesman said. The boy died instantly of his multiple injuries.

Caroline did not get marriage annulment

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican has denied French television and magazine reports that it had granted Princess Caroline of Monaco an annulment of her first marriage. Father Romeo Panciroli, spokesman for the Holy See, said Thursday: "The news from France which says there is an annulment in relation to the first marriage of Caroline of Monaco is false and without foundation." No decision had yet been reached on Caroline's request for an annulment of her 1979 marriage to Frenchman Philippe Junot, whom she divorced two years later, he said. Caroline married Stefano Casiraghi, the son of a wealthy Italian businessman, last December in a civil ceremony and gave birth to a son last month. Vatican sources have said the second marriage, which is not recognised by the church, should not affect the annulment request, which is being examined by a special commission.

Convicted killer executed